

# Connecticut Guardian

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## Coming home...

*Members of Co. G 126th Aviation look into the crowd as they come off the aircraft that brought them back to Connecticut after a year in Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)*



## ...and Going to War



*Family, friends and fellow Soldiers look on as Soldiers from Det. 2, Co. 1, 185th Aviation stand in formation during formal send-off ceremonies for the unit. The Sherpa unit is deploying to Iraq for the second time. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Barkman, State Public Affairs Office)*



## Commander's Corner



# Hispanic Americans making the sacrifice

COMMENTARY BY CAPT. CARLOS DIAZ  
18TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

9/29/2006 - KADENAAIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) — Many of us have made the trip from other countries where Spanish is the native language. Many of us share African, Spanish or Native American roots. All of us are committed to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

We are Hispanic Americans serving in the military.

From the Civil War to the war on terrorism, people from places like Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean and South America have fought bravely to defend our country against those who hate our way of life and the United States of America.

Many of our parents, and even some of us, have made the sacrifice of leaving the places we grew up to adopt and cherish a new culture with a new language that values the freedom of all men and women. This country has given us the opportunity to provide better lives for our families and to share our culture and make a contribution

to America's future.

Among those who have gone above and beyond in the defense of our country, are 39 Hispanic-American Medal of Honor recipients. Names like Army Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez, who despite his severe wounds saved the lives of at least eight men while serving in Vietnam.

Marine Pfc. Fernando Luis-Garcia did not hesitate to jump on top of and cover with his body an enemy grenade to protect his fellow Marines while serving in Korea. And Army Cpl. Benito Martínez who manned his listening post despite imminent danger while serving in Satae-Ri, Korea. These servicemembers exemplify the sacrifices of Hispanic Americans fighting in the U.S. military.

Never in my lifetime would I have imagined that after leaving Puerto Rico, I was going to be in the forefront of the war on terrorism and be able to provide comfort to those who lost everything they had after the 2004 tsunami in the Pacific.

Now that I think about it, I probably thought about serving my country. I

remember the stories of many veterans who would sit and chat with my grandfather about their experiences during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, while he waited for his medical appointment at a veterans' hospital.

Like my story, there are another 200,000 stories of sacrifice and courage like the ones I heard at that hospital a long time ago. Those stories are being written in Spanish and English, they sound like salsa merengue and mariachis; they taste like pozole, plantains and enchiladas; they all feel and smell like freedom.

Thousands of Hispanic Americans have given their lives to defend our way of life and have paved the way for me and other Hispanic-American servicemembers and civilians who have followed their example.

To the ones who went before us and opened doors to people like me, and to the country that has accepted our cultures and given us our way of life — Gracias!

(Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month)

"Sometimes I don't think you young people realize what a true treasure you are and what a great gift you give to the American people. Three hundred million Americans are being protected by 1.2 million men and women who have a sense of patriotism. This country owes you a debt of gratitude."

**Vice Chief of Staff of the Army**  
**General Richard Cody** speaking during a visit to Fort Hood on October 2, 2006.

Election  
Day  
is Tuesday  
Nov. 7  
Exercise  
your right  
to vote!

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Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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# Going to war...For a second time

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI  
65<sup>TH</sup> PCH

A Connecticut Army National Guard aviation unit with just nine members symbolizes how busy thousands of Connecticut's citizen-soldiers have been since the start of the Global War on Terror. Aviation Soldiers have been among the busiest in the state.

For just a couple of weeks during September 2006, all of the aviation Soldiers in the CTARNG were in the state at the same time. It was the first time in more than a year-and-a-half.

That situation changed at the end of September, as Detachment 2, Company I, 185<sup>th</sup> Aviation left Connecticut for mobilization as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The fact that this is the second time in 28 months that the unit is being activated for extended deployments to Southwest Asia further illustrates how busy Connecticut's aviation Soldiers have been.

At a send-off ceremony held at the State Armory in Hartford on September 27th, numerous state officials praised the efforts of the nine members of Det. 2, Co. I, 185<sup>th</sup> Aviation, and wished them the best in their return deployment to Iraq.

State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thad Martin commented on how busy the Guard has been, adding that things should be winding down in the near future.

"This unit's departure signals the beginning of the end for one of the most demanding deployment cycles in the modern history of the Connecticut National Guard," Martin said, referring to the Groton-based detachment that flies the C-23 cargo plane known as the Sherpa.

In between these deployments for OIF, these same pilots and flight engineers were activated to provide disaster relief in response to both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in 2005. They also flew other support missions in the country and in other parts of the world.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell lauded the Soldiers for answering the call to serve.

"On behalf of the citizens of Connecticut, I commend each and every one of you for your commitment to preserving freedom," Rell said. "Thank you for bringing security to our home front. You give us all piece of mind."

Rell also detailed what the unit accomplished during its first deployment to Iraq, such as flying 2,579 combat flight hours, transporting nearly 3,300 passengers and hauling 1.4 million pounds of cargo.

"The last time, we flew high-priority cargo and passengers – kind of like an Army FedEx operation," said CW4 James Muthig, commander of the unit.

Muthig said that the frequent C-23 flying missions help keep Soldiers off potentially dangerous roads and terrain in the region.

The unit returned from its first deployment to Iraq in June 2004. Despite having already spent more than a year away from their families

for that deployment, each of the nine members of Detachment 2 volunteered for their latest mission to Southwest Asia. This deployment is expected to last six months.

"It's our second deployment, and we would have preferred that it would not happen. But it did. And we're here to do our duty," Muthig said. "Everyone in the unit stepped forward to do our jobs. I'm very proud of that."

The chief elections official in Connecticut, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, thanked the aviation Soldiers for their contributions in helping establish democracy in Iraq.

She commented on the 8 million people in Iraq and the 10 million people in Afghanistan who registered to vote and to cast their votes since their respective countries were liberated by U.S. and coalition troops.

She also reminded these deploying Soldiers to exercise their own democratic duties at home.

"We have an election coming up here November 7th. Get those absentee ballots in!" Bysiewicz said.

A few days after the send-off ceremony, the unit members were to deploy to Fort Bliss, Texas for mobilization procedures. Their theater-specific flight training was to be held at Robins AFB in Georgia.

Although the Soldiers will be away, the adjutant general promised them and their families that help is available.

"I pledge a level of support and attention



*A Soldier of Det. 2, Co. I, 185th Avn. spends a private moment with his daughter before send-off ceremonies. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Barkman, State Public Affairs Office)*

to your needs that is unprecedented," Martin said.

The Connecticut Guard has its highest total of troops serving in the Global War on Terror since 2003. The total of Connecticut Guard members serving in Southwest Asia is nearly 1,000.



*Families, friends and fellow Soldiers honor the members of Det. 2, Co. I, 185th Avn. that are deploying for a second time during ceremonies held for the unit at the Hartford Armory. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Barkman, State Public Affairs Office)*



# A day in Afghanistan

SGT. MAJ. BRYAN GRAN  
102<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY –TF IRON GRAYS

It is a bright sunny day in Afghanistan, much like any other day. We had been sitting at the edge of the village, with a name we could not pronounce, waiting for someone to come out and meet us or at least show themselves. Finally we begin to see some older men approach us, followed soon by younger men and children of both sexes, it's about to get interesting.

Some of the men raise suspicions as they fit the profile of those most often recruited by the Taliban. But soon the attention goes towards the young kids as they are not wary of our presence but anticipate what we might have for them.

As a Tactical Psyops team opens the trunk of its HMMWV and the Civil Military Team pulls out it array of school supplies the kids begin getting out of control only to be quickly disciplined by their father and village elders. A couple bags of rice are dropped on the ground and given to the village elder, an act that normally brings a smile to a face that only minutes before looked at us with suspicion.

Yes it's a another day in a village, somewhere in Ghazni Province Afghanistan and another day we will try and help the people by providing them with the items they need to sustain them for yet another winter or another week.

All seems good as we focus on finding out what we can do for the inhabitants of this small village that has no electricity and no running water, we feel that maybe we are making a difference, even if it is for today only. All is good but all is not safe as perhaps only 10 percent of the Ground Assault Convoy is focusing on the civil military operation.

The vehicles are spread out and covering the most likely avenues of approach and all Soldiers, except for the gunner and driver, are outside the vehicle watching their sectors.

Our eyes are strained as we look across the dirty streets and open desert in search of a threat, any threat. We wonder who is behind us or in front of us.

Will the Taliban mine the road today; will they lay in wait, in order to attack us with an IED, followed by RPG's and small arms fire?

We are ready, having trained and briefed those actions required to keep us alive, at least for today, hopefully until we make it home.

It's odd though as you turn around to the face of smiling children and grateful adults,



*1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Frank A. Tantillo spends some time making friends with a little boy from a small village in Waghaz, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, 102<sup>nd</sup> Inf., TF Iron Grays)*

grateful that we are here, not just us but all US Soldiers. You turn around just as quickly and see the danger that lays in wait out in front of you and begin to wonder but who knows, who cares, we will wake up tomorrow and do it all over again until its time to come home. It is our duty to our fellow Soldiers, to our families, to our state and to our country.



*The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry's Senior NCOs assigned to Forward Operating Base Ghazni: from left to right they are; Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bill Beaulieu, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mike Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. John Politz, Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dave Carello, Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Warner, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Frank Rosado, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jason Tinelle. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Bill Wright and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class George Mandell are missing. Together, the Senior NCOs of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry at FOB Ghazni have 221 years of experience. (Photo courtesy Command Sgt. Maj. David Warner, 102<sup>nd</sup> Inf., TF Iron Grays)*



# Task Force begins work in preparation for C-21 conversion

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III  
103<sup>RD</sup> FIGHTER WING

Bradley Air National Guard base preparations for C-21 transport aircraft moved into the formal implementation phase April 19-20, 2006.

The Site Action Task Force (SATAF) spent two days in working groups with base project officers developing the schedule and milestones for a smooth startup of the new mission.

"This is the beginning of the implementation phase," said Lt. Col. Lee Knowlton, Site Action Task Force chief, National Guard Bureau, who is the assigned action officer for Bradley's C-21 conversion. "We do this [process] for anything from a robust to a full conversion."

Connecticut's Adjutant General welcomed the team and set some parameters.

"The C-21 is not the endgame," said Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, the Adjutant General, as he explained manning in the unit would reflect that future mission. "It is a bridge to a tactical airlift mission in the JCA [Joint Cargo Aircraft]; which, we need to have robust enough facilities to support. Also, two other missions need to be part of your [SATAF team] situational awareness, the CIRF [centralized intermediate engine repair facility TF-34] and a warfighting headquarters, as they all cannot use the same facilities."

To facilitate the conversion process, seven functional working groups met to build a SATAF book detailing the entire process. The seven groups, maintenance, maintenance training, manpower, operations, planning & resources, spares, and support equipment have joint chairs from the National Guard Bureau and 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing.

"I am very excited about the progress our



*Lt. Col. Peter J. Depatie, commander, 118th Fighter Squadron, takes a look at the cockpit of a Colorado ANG C-21 at Bradley Air National Guard base September 20, 2006 during the Site Action Task Force visit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. George Worrall)*

team made in two short days coming away with many answers," said Maj. Ann Ware, commander, 103<sup>rd</sup> Mission Support Flight and manpower working group co-chair for Bradley. "We are committed to working together as a group to present the best solution for the Connecticut Air National Guard to stand up this new mission."

Although final manning documents will take some time to develop, some good news was clear.

"There is no question [with the

manning] everyone will have a job if they want one," said Lt. Col. Jeffery A. Sabotka, director, Human Resources Office CTNG, who met with the manpower working group.

Visiting team members commented on the work done by Bradley staff before they arrived.

"The unit had a firm grip on issues," said Maj. Raymond Benshoof, SATAF maintenance chair, National Guard Bureau, who is on his first task force. "Everybody [at Bradley] is of a mind to get over all the hurdles and make the process as smooth as possible.

The biggest hurdle is the plan has to be done [immediately] because the aircraft are coming."

The time "hurdle" is the fall 2006 arrival of C-21s, which is only a few months after Connecticut's Gov. M. Jodi Rell's July 2006 announcement of the unit's new aircraft.

"The challenge in the near term will be to begin C-21 conversion and operations while we continue to provide real combat power with our remaining A-10s," said Col. Jack Swift, commander, 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing. "I am certain that with the skills and talent of all the members of this wing we can handle it well within our stride."

The C-21 is a capable aircraft already serving in the Air National Guard.

"The C-21 represents a very positive step forward for Connecticut," said Swift. "It seals the commitment to keep the Flying Yankees in a flying mission! We will operate both the A-10 and the C-21 as the entire wing transitions from our current mission to our future missions."

On hand for C-21 expertise during the two day SATAF, the commander of Colorado's C-21 unit, which converted to the aircraft in 1998, explained the viability of the C-21 airlift mission.

"Now there is more demand...insatiable demand...for airlift," said Col. Rick Martin, Commander, 200<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Colorado ANG. "JOSAC [Joint Operational Support Airlift Center which schedules airlift] could use us all day, every day. As the active duty shrinks the C-21 fleet demand can only increase. I am convinced a well run outfit can make a real impact."



*A Colorado ANG C-21 at Bradley Air National Guard base September 20, 2006 during the Site Action Task Force visit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. George Worrall)*



# Medics, OCS prepare for tomorrow's challenges

Spc. REBECCA REYNOLDS  
65<sup>th</sup> PCH

"Training Tomorrow's Leaders" is the motto for the 169th Leadership Regiment. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Battalion continued its mission with a land-navigation exercise at Stones Ranch. Sixty-six officer candidates from 14 states participated in the training.

"This is a school in which Soldiers make a conscious decision to attend to possibly get a commission," said OCS Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Spyros Spanos. "You pretty much have to put your life on hold for 14 months."

With almost one-third of the Connecticut Army National Guard deployed, there are fewer Soldiers transitioning from enlisted to officer, according to Spanos. Despite the smaller number of officer candidates Spanos said he is optimistic about the possibilities of future leaders. He is looking for the above average Soldier. Even though there are fewer people who are entering OCS, Spanos said "I humbly believe the quality of Soldiers is higher."

Candidate David R. Stone from Manchester, Connecticut is an officer candidate for the second time. Stone completed OCS in 2002 but deferred his commission in order to deploy with the 133rd Engineer Company, based in Maine.

Stone has been in the National Guard for 18 years. "I love the service," said Stone, "The greatest time of my life was in Iraq." He decided to become an officer because he aspired to be a leader. "There's something to be said about planning."

Stone was positive about the training, saying he particularly enjoyed the emphasis on team cohesion.

The land-navigation portion of the OCS Soldiers' training is designed not only to hone map-reading ability, but also to teach the candidates to be aware of their surroundings, as well as to develop their leadership skills. Soldiers were required to navigate successfully to five of seven points at Stones Ranch during a four-hour period in daylight hours. The candidates faced up to five miles of walking in that time. Additionally, they were required to find two of five points after dark.

At various stations members of the 118<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion provided medical support for the OCS Soldiers. Although they only had minor injuries to contend with, the 118th came prepared to overcome the worst. A new Mobile and Surgical Hospital (MaSH) provided by the Connecticut Department of Public Health was set up and prepared to deal with any in-state emergency.

The 118th had set up a quarter segment of the 100-capacity MaSH. The MaSH had been equipped to support up to five intensive-care patients. It also featured an X-Ray machine, climate control, mobile

latrines, and advanced equipment.

One of the training aids used by the 118th was the Laerdal "SimMan", a life-sized dummy capable of simulating a multitude of symptoms, illnesses and injuries. The SimMan has its own eyes and teeth, which help make it a realistic training aid.

"I think it's really good training. We get to use real equipment and have hands-on training," said Pvt. Edward R. Charlton. Charlton joined the 118th in February 2006, after he finished his advanced individual training. He is considering continuing in the medical profession by becoming a volunteer emergency medical technician in his hometown of Thompson, Connecticut.

Both medics from the 118th and all of the officer candidates of the 169th are preparing for the future. Today's Soldiers fine tune their skills to meet the demands of tomorrow.

*(Right) Officer Candidates Allen Dimond, of the 14<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, Annamaria Verdura, of the 141<sup>st</sup> Medical Company, Stefanie S. Smith of the 250<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion, Chan Park of the 254<sup>th</sup> Combat Arms Regiment, and Joshua Malero of the 21<sup>st</sup> CST practice M-16 firing drills during Phase one of Officer Candidate School in Stones Ranch, East Lyme on July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH).*



*Staff Sgt. Joao M. Polonio of the 118<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion demonstrates how to properly intubate on an intubation mannequin. Intubation, he explains, is used when a person is unconscious and cannot breathe. Polonio demonstrated intubation at Stones Ranch, East Lyme on July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH).*



*Officer Candidate Stefanie S. Smith of the 250<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion out of New Jersey practices assembling the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon during Phase one of Officer Candidate School in Stones Ranch, East Lyme on July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH).*





*(Left) Officer Candidate David R. Stone of B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry lies in the prone position during M-16 firing drills during Phase one of Officer Candidate School in Stones Ranch, East Lyme on July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)*

*(Below) Officer Candidate Kourtney L. Weldon of A Company 143<sup>rd</sup> Forward Support Battalion assembles an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon with help from the M-249 SAW class instructor, Officer Candidate Julie R. Rand from the 240<sup>th</sup> Regional Training Institute. The class took place during Phase one of Officer Candidate School in Stones Ranch, East Lyme on July 25<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by Spc. Ryan L. Dostie, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH).*





# Marksmanship Team members earn top honors

## *Marksmanship Team Takes First, Second, Third, Earns Bronze Badge*

1ST LT. SAMUEL H. ABBE  
103RD AIR CONTROL SQUADRON  
JOINT MARKSMANSHIP TEAM

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, East Granby – The Connecticut Air National Guard fielded a joint Bradley ANGB / Orange ANG's combat pistol team to enter the Chief of the National Guard Bureau Tournament. The team composed of 1st Lt. Sam Abbe, 1st Lt. Alexandria Prescott, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Roy, Staff Sgt. Victor McEntire, and Senior Airman Rudy Schmied who came together to compete over the cold winter months, placed second in the country, and earned a slot to compete in the final round at Camp Robinson, Ark.

The Air Control Squadron entered a four person combined arms combat team for the N.Y. Adjutant General's Match 28-30 April at Camp Smith, N.Y. Abbe, Master Sgt. Brian

Ubben, Staff Sgt. Robert Schlubach, and Schmied competed in four combat pistol and four combat rifle matches alongside 120 other competitors from N.Y., Army and Air Guard teams and guest teams from Mass., Vermont, and South Africa.

Abbe earned a Bronze Distinguished Expert Badge for his performance in the combat rifle Excellence in Competition match at the N.Y. TAG event.

The Gold, Silver, and Bronze Distinguished Expert badges are a rare set that can be earned only by placing in the top ten percent of pistol and rifle competitions. The Bronze

Distinguished Expert badge can be earned by placing in the top 10% of a state competition. Further excellence in regional and national level competitions can lead to the silver or gold badge. Each badge is

engraved with the member's name, rank, social security number and badge serial number.

Alas, the gold badges are no longer made of solid gold.

The Fighter Wing has two distinguished shooters. Senior Master Sgt. Brian Roy has the rare distinction of earning the Gold Distinguished Expert Badge in both rifle and pistol. Roy is the only Connecticut Guardsman who has achieved this and is the 45th person in the history of the Air Force to be double distinguished.

McEntire is well on his way to being doubly distinguished as well. He has earned the Gold Distinguished Expert Badge in pistol and the Silver Distinguished Expert Badge in rifle.

The ACS entered team in the Connecticut Adjutant General's Combat Match held at

the New London Sub Base during May drill. The team consisting, of Abbe, 1st Lt. Alexandria Prescott, and Ubben competed in combat pistol and combat rifle against Army and Air Guardsman from around the state. Abbe placed first in combat pistol, third in combat rifle, and first overall.

The team plans to have several civilian practice matches during the summer at Blue Trails in Wallingford as well as several combat style practices to prepare for the regional match in September at Fort Devens, Mass. and the Wilson Match at Camp Robinson, Ark. in November.

For more information on the CTANG marksmanship team, contact Senior Master Sgt. Brian Roy at Bradley ANGB or 1st Lt. Samuel Abbe at Orange ANG's.







Marksmanship team members Senior Airman Rudy Schmied, Staff Sgt. Robert Schlubach, and 1st Lt. Samuel Abbe pose with weapons during the 2006 N.Y. Adjutant General's Match in April at Camp Smith, N.Y. (Photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Sam Abbe)



**Announcing**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Adjutant Generals Combat Rifle & Pistol Championship Results**

The JFHQ SARTS hosted a combat marksmanship competition 6-7 May 2006. Army and Air Guard units from around CT traveled to the New London Submarine Base to compete in combat marksmanship with the M16A2 rifle and the M9 pistol.

**Individual Combined Arms**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 1LT Sam Abbe, ANG, 103 ACS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – LTC Eric Mullai, ARNG, 223<sup>rd</sup> MP Det
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – SSG Brian VanDamme, ARNG, 14<sup>th</sup> CST

**Individual Combat Rifle**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – LTC Eric Mullai, ARNG, 223<sup>rd</sup> MP Det
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – SSG Brian VanDamme, ARNG, 14<sup>th</sup> CST
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1LT Sam Abbe, ANG, 103 ACS

**Individual Combat Pistol**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 1LT Sam Abbe, ANG, 103 ACS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – LTC Eric Mullai, ARNG, 223<sup>rd</sup> MP Det
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – SGT Evan Lock, ARNG, 14<sup>th</sup> CST

**Team Combined Arms**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> CST, ARNG – CPT Philip Dering, SSG Brian VanDamme, SGT Evan Lock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 223<sup>rd</sup> MP Det, ARNG – LTC Eric Mullai, MAJ Daniel Murphy, CPT Roy Minton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 103 ACS, ANG – 1LT Sam Abbe, 1LT Alexandria Prescott, MSG Brian Ubben

**Team Combat Rifle**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> CST, ARNG – CPT Philip Dering, SSG Brian VanDamme, SGT Evan Lock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 250<sup>th</sup> EN, ARNG – SGT James Garvin, SPC Jose Irizarry, PVT James Therioque
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 223<sup>rd</sup> MP Det, ARNG – LTC Eric Mullai, MAJ Daniel Murphy, CPT Roy Minton

**Team Combat Pistol**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> CST, ARNG – CPT Philip Dering, SSG Brian VanDamme, SGT Evan Lock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> CST, ANG – MAJ Robert Ware, MSG Mathew Gagnon, TSG Vincent Sciortino
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 103 ACS, ANG – 1LT Sam Abbe, 1LT Alexandria Prescott, MSG Brian Ubben



## Guidelines for individual volunteer actions on GKO

PROVIDED BY MAJ. KIM ROLSTONE  
MOBILIZATION READINESS OFFICER

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) website –Guard Knowledge Online (GKO)- posts position vacancies for individual fill requirements for Army National Guard (ARNG) mobilizing units. These vacancies address Guard wide shortages and have been successful in correcting personnel readiness shortfalls for many units across the nation.

The Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) has benefited under this program but has also provided a number of individual volunteers who have supported non-CTARNG mobilizations.

CTARNG Soldiers who do submit their names on GKO as volunteers for non-CTARNG units must be aware of the CTARNG guideline:

Any Soldier who submits his/her name on GKO is required to inform his/her chain of command immediately. From a personnel readiness management perspective unit commanders need to know of such actions. Unit commanders will provide this information to the Mobilization Readiness Officer (MRO: MAJ Rolstone). The GKO process matches the volunteer's skill and grade to known shortages and NGB contacts the MRO to solicit CTARNG's approval for the selected Soldier to mobilize. Such opportunities are reviewed by the CTARNG leadership on a case by case basis.

For efficiency purposes, early awareness of a Soldier's volunteer efforts is important to the unit commander and the support staff who must react to the NGB selection process.

**For  
deployment-  
related  
questions  
call**

**1-800-858-2677**

## Re-Up!



From left to right are Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Amy Moylan, Staff Sgt. Jim Sota, Sgt. Derek Jackson and Spc. Tom King of the 143<sup>rd</sup> CSSB, all of whom re-enlisted or extended while deployed in Iraq. (Photo courtesy the 143<sup>rd</sup> CSSB)

## Like father, like daughter



"I was privileged to attend my daughter's graduation from Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC on 8 September 2006," said Maj. Kim Rolstone, Mobilization Readiness Officer of Pvt. Emily Rolstone after she graduated with B Co, 1/61st IN Reg. She is currently at Ft Gordon, GA for AIT and will complete 94R (Avionics Repair) AIT in April 2007. (Photo courtesy of Maj. Kim Rolstone)



# Boland takes command of AVCRAD

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI  
65<sup>TH</sup> PCH

Calling it a bittersweet day, Col. William P. Shea officially turned over command of the 1109<sup>th</sup> Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, a unit in which he has spent a substantial amount of his military career, including more than two years as commander.

As part of his farewell remarks to the members of his unit, Shea invited them to come visit him in his new office – that of chief of staff of the Connecticut National Guard.

In front of hundreds of Soldiers and family members, as well as numerous retired Guard members, Shea passed the commander's duties to Lt. Col. Thomas E. Boland, a fellow pilot who has also spent a lot of time with the 1109<sup>th</sup>. In his previous position, Boland had served as state aviation officer since 2003.

The change-of-command ceremony was held September 10, 2006 at the AVCRAD facility at the Groton-New London Airport.

Among the dignitaries who spoke at the ceremony was Congressman Rob Simmons, of Connecticut's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, which includes Groton. An Army veteran, Simmons spoke of the significance of this ceremony, and the impressive resumes that Shea and Boland have built while serving in the AVCRAD and other Connecticut Guard units.

"We are here today to recognize an outgoing commander and to welcome in a new commander. Both of these gentlemen began their careers as enlisted men," said Simmons, a retired colonel who had reached the rank of sergeant before earning his commission. Simmons spoke of his time with the House Armed Services Committee, such as meeting with Soldiers from the 1109<sup>th</sup> while they were deployed.

The 1109<sup>th</sup> has been one of the busiest units in the Connecticut Guard since the Global War on Terror began. It was also the largest Connecticut Guard unit that was activated for Operation Desert Storm.

"Today is a bittersweet day for me. It was tough to pass on the guidon," Shea said, thanking the many Soldiers who helped him throughout his time with the AVCRAD.

"The leaders, the NCOs and the officers gave me an opportunity."

"The 1109<sup>th</sup> is by far the best organization I've ever been involved with," Shea said. "The 1109<sup>th</sup> has become the 'Go-To AVCRAD' in the Army. I'm proud to have served with all of you."

Shea said that he has always been proud of the international deployments of the 1109<sup>th</sup>.

He also mentioned some of the recent accomplishments of the AVCRAD, such as deploying Louisiana to help with rescue operations following Hurricane Katrina. Less than 36 hours after being notified, the Soldiers were airborne, Shea said. He added that the unit's retention rate is just under 90 percent.

In passing on command duties, Shea thanked his family members for their support. In commenting on the first several weeks in his new position, he said he has found is that the line at the door of the chief of staff forms early.

And he encouraged the members of the 1109<sup>th</sup> AVCRAD to stop by and visit. He also displayed the confidence that he has in his successor.

"Lieutenant Colonel Boland, I wish the best. You will ensure continued success of a great organization," Shea said.

Speaking to the crowd, Boland wished the best to his predecessor, vowing to take him up on his invitation for visitors.

"I would like to congratulate Colonel Shea on his great work, and to wish him the best as chief of staff," Boland said, joking that he will be the first in line at the chief of staff's door. Boland said that he plans to build on the success already displayed by the 1109<sup>th</sup>, hoping to expand the already expansive role of the skilled support unit.

"I was given this opportunity so I could work with the great Soldiers and civilians of the AVCRAD," Boland said. Echoing comments made by Shea, Boland told the Soldiers of AVCRAD that there is no greater job for an officer than to be their commander.

Boland also thanked his family. Among those in the crowd was his father Brig. Gen. David Boland, former assistant adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard.

Shea began his military career in the 1109<sup>th</sup>, signing up as a private in 1979. He earned his commission through ROTC at the

University of Connecticut and was assigned to the AVCRAD in 1982.

He served as executive officer from 1998 until 2004. He deployed to Kuwait with the 1109<sup>th</sup>, participating in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Shortly after returning from that deployment, Shea was named commander of the 1109<sup>th</sup> in April 2004.

Shea earned his commission through ROTC at UConn, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. He is a graduate of numerous military schools, including the Transportation Officer Basic Course (Commandant's List), Initial Entry Rotary Wing Aviator Course (Honor Graduate), Aviation Officer Advance Course (Honor Graduate), United States Army Command and General Staff College (Commandant's List) and the National Defense Strategy Course. Upon his graduation from the Army War College he was awarded a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies. A Senior Army Aviator with 1,700 hours of flight time, Shea is qualified in the UH-1H/V Huey, CH-47D Chinook, and as a maintenance test pilot in the UH-60A/L Black Hawk.

Boland enlisted in the Guard in 1981 as a private. He also earned his commission through ROTC at UConn, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. Boland is a graduate of the Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. He completed Initial Entry Rotary Wing training in February 1986. In 1989, he was transferred to the 1109<sup>th</sup> AVCRAD, and was later activated in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Boland is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, and he is currently enrolled in the Army War College. A Master Aviator with 2,800 hours of flight time, he is qualified as a Maintenance Test Pilot in the UH-1H Huey and CH-47D Chinook, and as a pilot in the C-23B Sherpa and the C-12U.



Lt. Col. Thomas Boland (right) accepts the guidon of the 1109<sup>th</sup> Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot from Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Steven Scorzato, as part of the official change of command ceremony for the Groton-based unit. Outgoing AVCRAD Commander Col. William Shea (left) looks on. Shea was commander of the unit for more than two years before being named chief of staff of the Connecticut National Guard.





# CONNECTICUT MILITARY DEPARTMENT



## Energy News – September 2006

Fall is here. Time to begin thinking about the heating season and cold weather. (boo)

Clothing tips: Class B Uniform – Wear a sweater.  
BDUs – Wear Poly Pros (long john top?).

**Your help is needed to reduce energy costs. Treat your workplace like your home. The Military 'pocketbook' feels the same stab as you do when the energy bill shows up.**

- \* Remember to check doors to ensure they are closed and latched shut, especially overhead doors.
- \* During heating season maintain heat no more than 68° F during occupied times. Turning down the heat during unoccupied times will help even more (just like we do at home). It's also the law, I don't make this up.

### A LOOK BEHIND:

- Replaced all steam traps at Naugatuck and Putnam. (I now know that a steam trap keeps steam inside the heating system. Worn out steam traps leak steam into the air which wastes heat and wastes \$\$\$)
- Replaced old boiler (60% efficiency on a good day) at Branford OMS. New burner started 19 September with measured efficiency of **85%**. Efficiency means how much of the fuel is actually turned into heat. Higher efficiency gives more heat per gallon of oil; less oil needed saves money.
- Replaced 2 burners on the Norwich Armory boilers. Again, improved efficiency = less fuel needed = more dollars stay in our pocket.
- Trained the 'New Energy Guy', Jim Thomson (That's Me) who arrived November 2005

### A LOOK AHEAD:

- More new steam traps for Rockville, Westbrook and CSMS.
- Insulating pipes at Rockville and other sites. This prevents losing heat on its journey from the boiler to a radiator near you.
- Converting old inefficient high bay lighting fixtures to high bay T5 (Tube, 5/8 inch diameter) fluorescent type. 35% increase in light intensity with a 48% electric cost savings. (Let's see Harry Potter do that without his wand!)
- Converting light switches to occupancy sensing switches which will automatically turn lights on/off when we enter/leave a room. No more lights are on when nobody's home.

Jim Thomson  
CFMO Energy Manager  
Tel: (860) 548-3237 Cell: (860) 883-4532  
Jim.s.thomson@us.army.mil



## CTNG Energy Usage and Cost for JUL05-JUN06

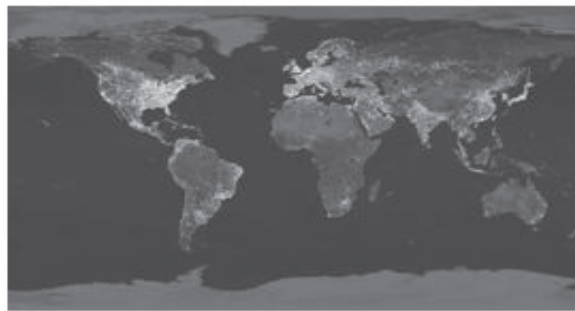
### Largest Overall Utility Consumers:

1. Bradley ANG	\$835,912
2. AVCRAD	\$428,131
3. Camp Rell	\$339,965
4. Camp Hartell	\$274,594
5. Hartford Armory	\$273,830
6. AASF	\$231,885
7. Orange ANG	\$149,743
8. Stone's Ranch	\$82,394
9. Newtown Training Site	\$72,259
10. New London Armory	\$67,364

Smallest: Southington FMS \$10,649

Total Utilities Cost \$3,543,396

Okay, Who left the lights on!



### Largest Overall Cost per Square Foot:

1. Manchester OMS 7A	\$5.08
2. Stratford OMS 9	\$4.39
3. Newtown Training Site	\$3.54
4. Norwich OMS 10	\$3.04
5. Naugatuck OMS 5	\$2.85
6. Hartford OMS 8A	\$2.80
7. Bradley ANG Base	\$2.63
8. Brainard HRO	\$2.63
9. Orange ANG	\$2.48
10. Camp Hartell	\$2.46

State Average Cost / SF \$1.81

Lowest: New Haven Armory \$0.34

### Highest Cost per Square Foot (TNG/AVN)

1. Bradley ANG	\$2.63
2. Orange ANG	\$2.48
3. Camp Hartell	\$2.46
4. AVCRAD	\$2.22
5. Camp Rell	\$1.56

Average \$1.96

Lowest: AASF \$1.20

### Highest Cost per Square Foot (Armory):

1. Norwalk	\$2.10
2. Naugatuck	\$2.05
3. Westbrook	\$1.92
4. New Britain	\$1.90
5. New London	\$1.76

Average \$1.31

Lowest: New Haven \$0.34

### Highest Cost per Square Foot (FMS):

1. Manchester FMS	\$5.08
2. Stratford FMS	\$4.39
3. Norwich FMS	\$3.04
4. Naugatuck FMS	\$2.85
5. Hartford FMS	\$2.80

Average \$3.24

Lowest: Southington FMS \$2.11



# Connecticut Military Department News



## Rendering Honors

*(Left) Members of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard receives military funeral firing detail training under the watchful eye of Capt. William Oefinger. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Kevin Cormack, 1GFG)*

*(Below) Master Sgt. Max Covell of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard learns flag folding during Military Funeral Honors Training at Camp Rell. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Mark Boudreau, 1GFG)*

## WANTED!

### New members to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Governor's Horse Guard

The Second Company Governor's Horse Guard (2GHG) is currently seeking new members. The "Second Horse" has been serving the citizenry of Connecticut since 1808 and is one of the oldest horse Cavalry Units still in continuous service in the United States. Classes start this winter.

If you have an interest in finding out more about the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard or in joining the unit, log on to our website, [www.thehorseguard.com](http://www.thehorseguard.com), for an application or call (203) 426-9046 to schedule an appointment during one of our Thursday evening drills. You do not need any military or riding experience in order to join the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard and riding or non-riding member opportunities are available. Weekly drills are conducted at the Newtown Military Reservation in Newtown, CT. Anyone in good physical condition between the ages of 18 and 55 may apply. 2GHG troopers are dedicated to performing in ceremonial events such as parades, funeral honor squads, gubernatorial inaugurations, presidential inaugural parades and other events at the order of either the Connecticut's Governor or Adjutant General. Members are also dedicated to preserving the history of the cavalry in the state of Connecticut and to participating in community service activities such as our special needs riding program and our fund raising events for St. Jude Children's Hospital, the North American Riding for the Handicap Association (NARHA), and the local food pantry.

The Second Horse participates in weekly drills that cover military drill and ceremony, weapons training and military horsemanship. Members also participate in a weeklong Annual Training, held at Camp Rell in Nyantic, where troopers are housed in military barracks and are provided with the opportunity to access the military training facilities available at this National Guard training facility.





# It's all about fam

**SPC. RYAN DOSTIE**  
**65<sup>TH</sup> PCH**

You couldn't have asked for better weather for Family Day at Camp Rell, Niantic on September 9. The warm day and cloudless sky was perfect for the approximately 1,500 people who attended the Family Day event and awards ceremony.

The affair started at ten o'clock with families being able to walk around the field at Camp Rell. While a section of the field was under the cover of large white tents for food and shade, the rest had been set up with vendors and military attractions for both adults and children.

Some of these attractions were different types of military vehicles placed so that the families could not only see them, but get inside them as well. Many smiling children were seen inside the Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters. Also on display were a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, a Bridge Erection Boat, and several kinds of communication satellites, as well as other ground vehicles.

Staff Sgt. Daniel R. Camp of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron says he and his family try to make it every year. He and his wife, Melissa, likes seeing all the military across the state get together and enjoy spending time with other families and guard members.

"A few more games for adults would be nice," Melissa says, then adds with a smile that she would love to see an Army verse Air Force tug-of-war game.

"It's all about family," says Maj. Michael Davis of the 118<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion. "It's a great event that gets better every year. Other families can see that there are families just like them out there. It's a matter of family support." For children he likes that they can see that military members are people just like everyone else, not just Soldiers that carry weapons around. Davis brought his wife, Julia, his daughter, Brittany, 10, and his son, Devin, 7, to the event.

Family Day is a large event held in honor not just for the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard but for the families who support them as well.

"A guardsman's ability to serve would not be possible without the love and support of the families around them," said Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Connecticut's Adjutant General, during the Family Day Awards Ceremony.

Gov. Jodi M. Rell reiterated this point, addressing both guardsmen and family members in her speech.

"The Connecticut National Guard is the woven fabric of the state. They're always there to help keep us strong, always been there to answer the call of duty, no matter

what. They always serve with honor and pride.

"And this day is dedicated to them and their families. No one can do this without the support of his or her family members."

An awards ceremony for Soldiers returning from overseas deployments was held and began with the entering of the Nation's colors. The American flag was delivered by parachutist Maj. Philip Macchi, the company commander of Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces group. The flag was then promptly raised to half-staff, as the state was still in mourning for two Connecticut military members who died recently in Iraq.

Before awards were given out, three A-10 thunderbolt attack aircrafts roared overhead in a flyover, and then were quickly followed by three helicopters. The flyover was conducted by the Connecticut Flying Yankees 118<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron from the Connecticut Air Guard and the rotary flyover by the Connecticut Army National Guard.

Aside from the individual awards the Soldiers and Airmen received during the ceremony, each Guardsman was given an encased American flag, a commemorative coin, and a certificate of appreciation from the Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, and Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe. The Soldier's spouse received a lapel insignia while his or her children were presented with a future Soldier's footlocker kit, which contained the Daring Eagle Board Game, the Mission Command Game, trading cards and comic books.

The awards were not for the military members alone, however. The National Guard then recognized and honored the family members by conducting the Family of the Year Presentations.

Three families were honored with the Connecticut Army National Guard Family of the Year Award. The Jones, Samson and Pelletier families were chosen for their volunteer work for the 143<sup>rd</sup> Area Support Group Family Readiness Group. They actively participated in planning family events and arranging fundraising drives to ensure that family members had ample opportunities to socialize with other families who also had close ones deployed overseas.

The Air Guard Family of the Year Award was then presented to Dave and Patricia Shannon, who both served on the volunteer council for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing Family Program. Collectively they have served more than 1,100 hours of their free time to assist with the Air and Army National Guard events.

After the ceremony Guardsmen and

families enjoyed lunch to the live music of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Army Band's Woodwind, Brass and Jazz Ensembles, from Willie and the Old Whiskey River Band, followed by singer Jeff Wade Clark.

Throughout the day children were able to have their faces camouflage painted by Officer Candidates and in once instance face painter Officer Candidate Austin Volpe had children paint his face in return.

Also arranged for children were a variety of inflated obstacle courses and games. Children and even some adults donned their helmets to take part in jousting with pugil sticks in an inflated ring.

Next to the inflated courses was the National Guard sponsored NASCAR vehicle where anyone could have a professional photograph taken while standing next to the car.

"Every year has new equipment, new things to show everyone, and they're always adding more fun," says Julia Davis.



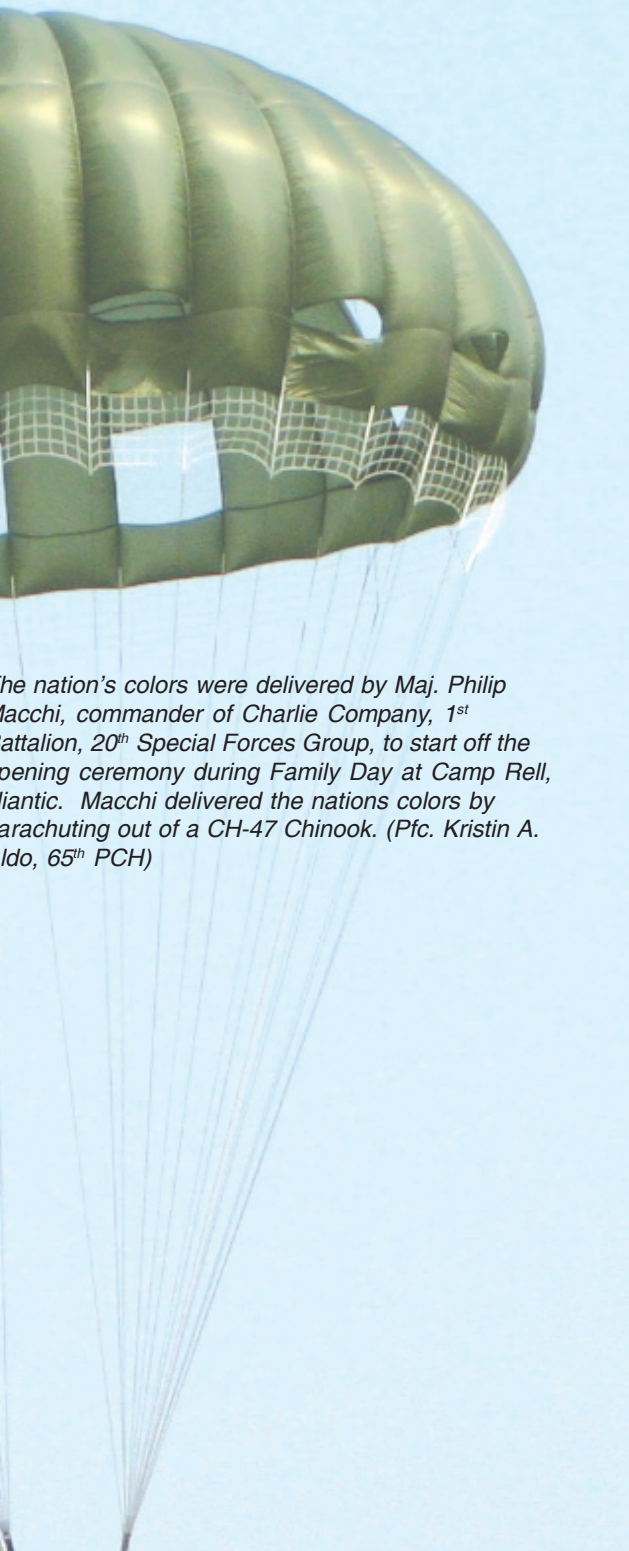
Cutter, the mascot for the Connecticut Defenders baseball team, says hello to Alexis Gallant, 15 months, and her friend Katie Morton, 11 at the National Guard's Family Day September 9. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



Officer Candidate Austin Volpe gets some help from his son Christopher, 4 at the National Guard's Family Day. Officer candidates ran the face painting booth at Camp Rell, Niantic. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



# ily on Family Day



The nation's colors were delivered by Maj. Philip Macchi, commander of Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, to start off the opening ceremony during Family Day at Camp Rell, Liantic. Macchi delivered the nations colors by parachuting out of a CH-47 Chinook. (Pfc. Kristin A. Ido, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



Master Sgt. Michael Huggard of the 169<sup>th</sup> Leadership Reg. prepares to raise the American flag at the Family Day 2006 awards ceremony. The colors were delivered by a parachutist to the parade field at Camp Rell where the event was held September 9. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



Ryan Tomlin, 6, pretends to be a fighter pilot during the National Guard's Family Day September 9. (Photo by Spc. Rebecca Reynolds, 65<sup>th</sup> PCH)



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**NATIONAL GUARD**   
RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



# Air Force Memorial's soaring spires completed

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — The Air Force Memorial's stainless steel spires were finished Sept. 21 with the placement of the top segment of the third spire, providing the first complete view of the memorial's design.

Reaching a height of 270 feet and located on a promontory overlooking Arlington Cemetery, the memorial will transform the greater Washington, D.C., skyline and provide visitors with a commanding view of the nation's Capitol, according to retired Maj. Gen. Edward F. Grillo Jr., president of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

"The reality has lived up to the dream that we've had for almost 15 years since we embarked on this project to develop the memorial," said Grillo. "As we remove the cranes and peel away the blue plastic covering to reveal the stainless steel in the next few weeks, the nation will finally be introduced to this lasting tribute to the men and women of the Air Force and its predecessor organizations."

Designed by the late James Ingo Freed, an architect with Pei Cobb & Partners, the spires are evocative of the bomb-burst flying formation made famous by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

The Air Force Memorial officially will be dedicated Oct. 14.

"We are expecting over 30,000 people to join with us to celebrate the official dedication of the memorial," the general said.



"As an Air Force veteran, I am incredibly excited about the planned events and wish to extend an invitation to all Americans to join us in Arlington Oct. 14."

The third spire of the new Air Force Memorial was completed on Sep 21. The memorial, which overlooks Arlington Cemetery outside Washington D.C. will be officially dedicated Oct 14. (U. S. Air Force photo/Ron Hall)




OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

Hartford Armory (860) 249-3634



October 2006




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Yom Kippur begins at Sundown	2 Yom Kippur	3 Senator Ed Meyer Fund Raiser Lunch 12 - 130 PM	4 5 PM TRPC Towing DINNER	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day Observed State Holiday	10	11	12	13 3:30PM Promotion Ceremony BG Scorzato 630PM Governors Horseguard Old Timers Dinner	14 NG DRILL
15 NG DRILL	16	17 12 Noon Ladies O'Club	18 6 PM Democratic	19 12 Noon MOOA Lunch 6PM Retirement Party Dinner Craig Hancock	20	21 Private Party 6:30 PM
22	23	24	25	26	27 6:30 PM Club NiteOctober fest German Food and Music. Reservations 249-3634	28
29	30	31 Halloween				


Lunch Served Daily 11:30 - 2:30 PM (see daily specials)  
Bar & Lounge open at lunch and 4:00 PM - Close

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT


PRESENTS



OCTOBERFEST 2006



FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 2006



Dinner 7:00 PM     \$30.00 plus T & T

MENU

Appetizers: Harvest Bisque W/ Dark Rum

Salads: Warm German Potato Salad, Seasonal Greens

Entrees

Sauerbraten mit Rotkohl & KartoffelKlose  
(Marinated Pot Roast w/ Ginger Snap Sauce)

Bratwurst mit Sauerkraut & Bratkartoffelin


Black Forest Ham w/ Raisin Sauce

Baked Trout a la Holstein (Egg ,caper, anchovy sauce)

Real German sauerkraut   Spaetzle   Red Cabbage w/Apples

Potato Pancake w/Homestyle Applesauce & Sour Cream

Desserts: Black Forest Cake     Apple Strudel



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# Military Matters

## Army readies faster Unit Readiness-Assessment System

GERRY J. GILMORE  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 2006—The Army will soon power up a faster, computerized readiness-assessment system that commanders will use to monitor and gauge their units' fitness for deployment to perform combat and other missions, a senior Army official said here today.

The Defense Readiness Reporting System-Army will be implemented Armywide Oct. 15, Col. Barry Tyree, chief of the Army Staff's readiness division, told reporters at a Pentagon news briefing.

The transformational automated system will be fielded in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Tyree said. The system is easier for commanders to use, while providing a more current picture of unit-readiness levels, he said. The new system will eventually be used by all of the armed services.

The new system enables commanders to focus on the content of their readiness-assessment reports, Tyree said, "and not necessarily on the time it takes to create" the reports.

"In our testing we found that we reduced the workload on commanders in the field by about 50 to 75 percent for how they create this report," Tyree said. "And, that's good for us, because at the department level — and certainly as it goes to the Joint Staff and OSD — you want more accurate information."

The old, slower system was created during the Cold War and relied on "stubby pencil" inputting of data, Tyree said. The new, Web-based system automatically links to other sites commanders will use in updating their readiness reports, he said.

Commanders enter readiness data, such as numbers of personnel, training status,

equipment on hand and equipment serviceability, into the computerized system, Tyree explained. The system features specialized data input templates that are customized for different types of military units, such as armor, artillery, infantry, and so forth.

The secured, automated program also incorporates a new capabilities-measuring system instituted by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Tyree said. Military units are assigned "yes," "qualified yes," or "no" readiness ratings.

"Yes" means identified units can be immediately deployed, according to Army documents. "Yes" assessments should also, whenever possible, reflect a unit's demonstrated performance in training or during actual operations.

"Qualified yes" means a military organization is expected to accomplish a given task well enough, but the unit's performance hasn't been observed or demonstrated during training or operations, according to Army documents.

A "no" assessment indicates the organization is unable to accomplish the task to standard at that particular time.

For the time being, the Army also would continue to employ the current five-part system in concert with the new system as part of the unit readiness-assessment process, Tyree said.

"We're keeping the current ... assessments so we can ensure that we understand how commanders are making their assessments," he said.

The new system also will assist Army and DoD efforts in providing "all the right resources" for units returning from deployment, while also monitoring those units' progress as they "re-set" for future deployments, Tyree said.

## Defense Department to review military awards program

ARMY SGT. SARA WOOD  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

9/22/2006 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) — In an effort to provide clarity in awards standards across the military services, the Defense Department has begun a comprehensive review of military awards and decorations, a DOD official said here yesterday.

This routine review will result in revision of DOD Instruction 1348.33-M, the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, said Bill Carr, deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

The changing nature of warfare in the war on terrorism and lessons learned over the past few years have prompted some changes to make the system work better across the military, Carr said.

"It's been about 10 years since we've reviewed our directive in a comprehensive way and, given the events of the global war on terror — our experience operationally in that environment — there are some changes we think we can make to give greater clarity and consistency to the awards," he said.

The review will focus on several specific areas where discrepancies among the different branches of the military have come to light, Carr said.

One of these areas is the criteria for "V" devices and Purple Heart Medals, he said. In the Army, the "V" device only is awarded for valor, whereas in the other services, it can be awarded simply for a servicemember's presence in the theater of operations, he said.

When it comes to Purple Hearts, the different services have slightly different standards for level of injury, Carr said.

Another area that will be addressed in

the review is the definition of the theater of operations when it comes to expeditionary medals, Carr said.

The Air Force defines the theater of operations as the globe, because their pilots fly all over the world, but other services define the theater as a specific piece of ground, he said.

"The review itself really is generated by questions that arose from the services, one by one, over the past couple of years," Carr said.

"Concerns have been expressed by one service about the practices of another service, and as we saw that pattern, it was pretty clear that it was now time to conduct a more comprehensive review."

A working group consisting of representatives from each service, the Joint Staff and the Institute of Heraldry will form the core of the comprehensive review effort, Carr said.

There also will be a structure in place to address institutional changes that come up from the review, he said.

The review is expected to last about six months, and shortly thereafter, if the services have achieved a consensus, DOD will be able to move pretty quickly with publication of the new instruction, Carr said.

After the review, DOD will have one set of standards for awards procedures, as it does now, Carr said.

Discrepancies have arisen because of language in the current standards that can be interpreted differently, he said. With this review, DOD officials hope to make the standards clearer and more objective, he said.

"There probably are ways to do that and, if we achieve it, we'll have greater consistency," he said.

## New utility uniform on track for distribution

STAFF SGT. C. TODD LOPEZ  
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into production and on track for distribution to deploying Airmen next summer. Patterns have been finalized and are being run through production to ensure sizing and garment construction as well as preparing for assembly-line operations, said Senior Master Sgt.

Dana Athnos, the Air Force uniform board superintendent. Senior leaders want the warfighters to get the first ABUs, and Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 will receive two sets each of the new ABU

and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

Airmen embedded with Army units will get four ABU sets which lets them blend in more with their service counterparts. While the Army and the Air Force combat/battle uniforms will look similar from a distance, the Air Force distinctive pattern includes a slate-blue shade in addition to foliage green, desert sand and urban gray shades. The pattern is pixilated or "digital" like the Marine Corps and Army but is based on a pixilated Vietnam-era tiger stripe pattern.

While the ABU has been in production for about four and a half years, the Air Force has had numerous hurdles to overcome. The ABU

is the first utility uniform designed in both male and female sizes to replace the DCU and "woodland" patterned Battle Dress Uniform. The ABU will be worn in the desert, stateside bases and in environments for which the BDU was originally designed.

And it has been redesigned from the largely unpopular blue-tiger striped pattern initially fielded, most recently with additions of extra pockets, after feedback Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley got when he was visiting Airmen in Southwest Asia.

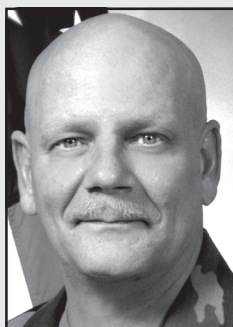
Considering the final changes and configurations were made this past

January and the ABU will begin rolling off the assembly line in January 2007, Athnos said the ABU is on track and moving forward as planned. After distribution to Airmen deploying next summer, Airmen in basic training will be issued the ABU beginning in October 2007.

Once that distribution system is in place, the ABU will be available in AAFES outlets for purchase. The expected mandatory wear date for the ABU is 2011.







COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Leaders that communicate to support attrition management is a means of letting our Soldiers and Airmen know that we believe in the principle, Mission first, Soldiers and Airmen always.

When our Soldiers and Airmen know that we are committed to them, they are much more likely to commit themselves to the Guard and to stay with their units. Good leaders accomplish this by continually informing their Soldiers and Airmen immediately about matters that concern them, staying in touch with them to make sure they have the resources, training, and challenges they need, advising them about Guard-related issues and problems, and empowering the unit's NCOs to do everything they can for their Soldiers and Airmen AND to bring their concerns to you.

It's leadership's responsibility to inform your Soldiers and Airmen immediately of all information that concerns their status and well-being as Guard members. Staying in touch with your Soldiers and Airmen means acting proactively to make sure that they have the resources, training, and challenges they need.

One of the best ways of staying in touch with your Soldiers and Airmen is to make time to talk with them directly and on a regular basis. There are several approaches you might take. Invite a different group of them to lunch every drill weekend. Encourage them to tell you what's on their minds. Make yourself visible to your Soldiers and Airmen at drill. You might try spending some time with each subordinate unit every weekend, or making a schedule of when you'll be spending time with each unit.

Advising Soldiers and Airmen on their career development is a core leadership responsibility—we all train our replacements. From an attrition management perspective, advice on career development takes on a new importance. Our ability to offer Soldiers and Airmen a

picture of what an advanced Guard career offers can be a tremendous incentive to stay with a unit. Some of them may be indifferent to their current Guard experience can be strongly motivated to stay by the increasing responsibilities and challenge of career development. Advising them on career development is commonly considered mentoring.

Empowering our unit's NCOs is an essential part of your unit's attrition management effort. No one understands the Soldier's and Airman's needs like the NCOs—and no one else can respond to those needs as successfully as they can. No other unit leader is better positioned to help keep them in boots. If the NCOs don't do it, it doesn't get done. For every officer's vision, you need the NCOs to get it up and running.

The responsibility to take care of our Soldiers and Airmen is at the core of what it means to be an NCO. Living this principle will always encourage them to stay.

"All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own." (From the NCO Creed)

The strength of our Guard unit depends on the performance of our Soldiers and Airmen. As leaders we have the opportunity to affect Soldiers and Airmen, one by one, empowering them to reach their goals and the unit goals. Counseling is one-on-one communication with a subordinate that is intended to help that them develop.

Event-oriented counseling is caused by a specific situation or behavior. You usually cannot foresee when you will need to have an event-oriented counseling session.

On the other hand, performance and professional growth counseling sessions are regular and predictable parts of a subordinate's career development. All counseling serves the same basic purpose – to develop great Soldiers and airmen by encouraging positive behaviors or by discouraging specific negative behaviors. Counseling is important.

Good counseling will lead to unit readiness

and develop the future leadership of the unit. Remember when you counsel a Soldier or Airmen, you are molding the next generation of the unit's leaders. When you spend one-on-one time with each of your subordinates, they'll feel like an important member of the team, and you'll be able to nip any potential problems in the bud. Counseling is for the subordinate's benefit. It is a tool to help you empower them to reach individual and organizational goals.

As I continue to travel throughout the State during the week and on weekend drills, I ask Soldiers if they know what ESAR and GRAP are, and I am surprised many still do not know about these programs. The ESAR was established to instill in all Soldiers and leaders that Every Soldier is a Recruiter. ESAR is open to individuals in the ARNG (SELRES), including AGR Soldiers on Active Duty, Military Technicians (MILTECHs) and Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) personnel. Eligible participants who make a qualifying referral may receive a bonus of up to \$1,000. Referrals must be non-prior service, and may not be a member of the referring participant's immediate family. The ARNG ESAR program is managed by NGB-ASM, Arlington, VA. Log in today to: <https://esar.1800goguard.com/login.php> for more information.

Hopefully more Connecticut Army and Air National Guard members are signing up for the Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (GRAP). To maintain today's readiness and strength requirements while preparing for tomorrow's challenges, the **Guard Recruiting Assistance Program** promotes **strength from within** by recognizing and rewarding those who help the ARNG and ANG achieve its goals.

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting CTARNG and CTANG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the CTNG. Recruiter Assistants earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for four months. Guard Recruiting

Assistants are embedded in their respective communities and are uniquely positioned to identify Potential Soldiers and Airmen in the people they already know.

It's the effective way to promote strength from within our Guard. Be a Guard Recruiting Assistant. Qualify to become a Guard Recruiting Assistant through a simple online process by logging in to: [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com).

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online at [www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com](http://www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com) to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiter Assistant (RA). The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, not the National Guard. Each RA will cultivate quality Potential Soldiers and Airmen from within their individual spheres of influence. Once a Potential Soldier or Airman is identified and pre-qualified, the RA will facilitate a meeting engagement with their local Recruiter.

The triad of Recruiter, RA, and Potential Soldier/Airman will then work closely to process the Potential Soldier/Airman and move them towards accession. Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment of a NPS to Basic Training. As for a PS recruit, the RA will receive the initial payment of \$1,000 upon enlisting in the National Guard, and the second \$1,000 payment upon successful drilling of 90 days for the ANG and 120 days in their unit for the ARNG. Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

Breaking News! Retirees of the Army National Guard with 20+ years of service are now eligible to participate in G-RAP!

"Leadership is all about people. It is not about organizations. It is not about plans. It is not about strategies. It is all about people—motivating people to get the job done. You have to be people-centered." —Colin Powell

#### Send Letters to the Editor to:

Editor, Connecticut Guardian, National Guard Armory  
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or by email to: [ctguardian@us.army.mil](mailto:ctguardian@us.army.mil)

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# Homefront

## In defense of Connecticut's children: *Homework assignment for parents*

Simple steps that can make a difference  
Going back to school signifies a time of new beginnings-new schools, classes, and friends. It can also be a time of new challenges for many young people when it comes to drugs. As a parent, doing your homework and being a positive role model can impact your teen's decision to not to use drugs. Parents can get smart about the risks associated with teens going back to school and make the grade in keeping their kids drug-free by completing the "homework assignments: below.

There are simple steps you can take to keep track of your child's activities. Of course, your kids might not like you keeping tabs on where they are and what they are doing. It won't be a democracy, and it shouldn't be, according to many parenting experts. In the end, it's not pestering, it parenting.

Be aware of challenges facing your teen as they enter high school-Teen acceptance of marijuana use and perceptions of normalcy increase dramatically during the transition from middle school to high school, corresponding with an increase in use.

Get to know your teen's friends and where they hang out-Research showed that the majority of teens (ages 12-17) who smoked marijuana report getting it from their friends and usually received it inside a home, apartment, or dorm. Hanging around users of marijuana often means exposure not only to other illegal drugs, but also to a lifestyle that can include trouble at school, engaging in sexual activity while young, unintended pregnancy, difficulties with the law, and other problems.

Help your teens reject peer pressure-Young people who learn a lot about the risks of drugs at home are up to 50% less likely to try

drugs than their peers who don't get drug information from their parents.

Schedule time with your teen to discuss your family's "no drug use" policy-set and enforce rules with clear consequences for breaking them-Make your position clear when it comes to dangerous substances like alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Don't assume that your children know where you stand.

Eat meals together as often as you can-Studies show that kids whose families eat together at 5 times a week are less likely to be involved with drugs or alcohol.

Involve your teen in supervised activities-Approximately 91 percent of youths nationwide participated in one or more school-based, church or faith based, or other activities during the past year. Teens involved in after school activities or programs were less likely to have used cigarettes, alcohol, or illicit drugs in the past month than youths who did not participate in supervised activities during the past year.

Check in with your teen after school-The danger zone for drug use is between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. If you can, try to arrange flex time at work so you can be home during those hours.

Stay involved with your teen's life-Help your teen with homework assignments and projects, limit time spent watching TV and using the internet, etc. Give your teen responsibilities around the house and remember to recognize successes and good behavior.

Information Provided by:

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

[http://www.theantidrug.com/advice/BTS\\_homework.asp](http://www.theantidrug.com/advice/BTS_homework.asp)

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# Veterans' Assistance

## Women Veterans increasing in number, need for assistance

DANIEL J. McHALE  
STATE BENEFITS ADVISOR -CT

In case you haven't noticed, there are increasing numbers of women choosing the military as a career.

During WWII the WAC's (Women's Army Corp) along with their Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard counterparts served mostly in administrative and medical fields and rarely in forward frontline units.

This trend started to change after Vietnam and accelerated with the advent of the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) in 1973, when occupational roles within the military opened up considerably for women because of the need to fill those positions with a volunteer force.

With the active military and the National Guard restructuring, (especially in Connecticut) and moving away from Combat units and moving more towards Combat Service and Combat Service Support, units there is more opportunity and more non-gender specific units with MOS's open such as MP's, Transportation, Aviation and Engineer units for women to serve in.

In "Theater" female Soldiers and Airman are flying jets and attack helicopters, breaking down doors and searching for "the bad guys" along side their male MP peers, and riding "shotgun" in ambulances and supply convoys.

They are every bit as tough and professional as their male counterparts.

That said, at last count, there are 14,803 Women veteran's in Connecticut and approximately 1.7 million across the United States.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, this number is only going to grow.

The increase in the number of women serving in the military will significantly impact the future of services provided by both the Federal and State Department(s) of Veterans Affairs.

This is going to compel the VA to re-address their services and benefits to adjust to the changing gender demographics of the swelling veteran population.

The VA has recognized this situation addressing "special Needs" and other issues unique to Women Veterans through seminars and work groups and will be asking for specific funding in their 07 budget process.

Part of my responsibilities as a State Benefits Advisor includes raising awareness amongst different Veteran's groups and provide information on the various programs available to different categories of Veteran's. To give you a little insight to what the VA is doing for Female Veterans, the following is taken off the Federal VA Website explaining their policies and programs for Women Veterans:

### Center for Women Veterans

#### Our Mission:

The mission of the Center for Women Veterans is to ensure that:

- Women veterans have access to VA benefits and services on par with male veterans.
- VA programs are responsive to gender-specific needs of women veterans.
- Outreach is performed to improve women veterans' awareness of services, benefits, and eligibility criteria.
- Women veterans are treated with dignity and respect.

**The Director, Center for Women Veterans,** acts as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters related to policies, legislation, programs, issues, and initiatives affecting women veterans.

#### Our Goals:

- Identify policies, practices, programs, and related activities that are unresponsive and insensitive to the needs of women veterans, and recommending changes, revisions or new initiatives to address these deficiencies.
  - Foster communication among all elements of VA on these findings and ensuring the women veterans' community that women veterans' issues are incorporated into VA's strategic plan.
  - Promote and provide educational activities on women veterans' issues for VA personnel and other appropriate individuals.
  - Encourage and develop collaborative relationships with other Federal, state, and community agencies to coordinate activities on issues related to women veterans.
  - Coordinate outreach activities that enhance women veterans' awareness of new VA services and benefits.
  - Promote research activities on women veterans' issues.
- Our Activities:**
- Regularly monitor changes VA-wide and assess the impact these changes may have on the delivery of services to homeless women with children, rural and elderly women veterans, and minority women veterans.
  - Regularly monitor VA briefings during Transition Assistance Programs to ensure that active duty women are provided access to information on the benefits and services available to them as veterans prior to their release from active duty.
  - Foster the implementation of a "One VA" approach by facilitating joint training and networking among Women Veterans Program Managers and Women Veterans Coordinators across VA.
  - Provide women veteran consumers the opportunity to share their concerns and

issues with VA managers through town hall meetings, community forums and gatherings, and regional/national summits.

- Monitor VA's research agenda to ensure that women veterans and their issues are included in all VA studies.
- Continue to outreach to the women veterans' community with increased emphasis on outreach to the elderly, minority and those living in rural areas.
- Establish and continue relationships with state and county departments of veterans affairs.
- Establish and continue partnerships with national veterans service organizations to enhance and increase outreach efforts to women veterans.
- Establish and continue partnerships with other federal agencies responsible for providing services to women.
- Widely distributed the pocket guide, "Women Veterans - 25 Frequently Asked Questions."

#### The Future

- Their (the VA) vision of the future is to ensure that services and benefits responsive to the needs of women veterans are maintained and when necessary, enhanced.
- The Center for Women Veterans is committed to ensuring that services and

benefits responsive to the needs of women veterans are maintained and, when necessary, enhanced.

The VA is committed to addressing the needs of Women Veterans and is requesting feedback from OIF/OEF Veterans to adjust future policies and programs to meet the special needs of the Female Veterans.

On November 2, 2006, (1:00 pm-3:00pm) there will be a Women Veterans Celebration (Tenth Anniversary) Open House /Health Fair Women's Health Center, West Haven VA, Building 1 G222.

Also on that date at the Donaldson Education Center (B2 ) West Haven VA Center, "Voices of Women Veterans" at a Tea and Panel Discussion , 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. \_ You need to register for the "TEA" in the Women's Clinic or at (203) 932-5711, X 5400/5402.

In February of 07, the VA is going to hold a seminar on Woman Veterans to cover and address all possible issues concerning policies, practices, programs and related activities and coordinate outreach affecting Women Veterans. There will be at least one Female Veteran from each State asked to attend the conference.

The conference will either be in Phoenix, AZ or Melbourne, FL. As soon as I get more information, I will work the issue through the Chief of Staff for funding and selection of participants. Contact me if you need more information on this subject.

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# Guarding Your Rights

## Legal Affairs: *Political activities of military personnel*

CAPT. ROBERT E. HENRY  
JAG

As we approach the 2006 mid-term elections it is time again for the bi-annual JAG briefing on permitted political activities by military personnel. The laws that govern political activity by service members and federal employees are separate and distinct. Military personnel fall into one of three categories: (1) Active duty military (anyone in a Title 10/Title 32 status); (2) federal employees, (including dual status military technicians); and, (3) M-day service members. In order to comply with applicable law you need to identify your status.

### Active Duty

The political activities of active duty military personnel, including M-day personnel on orders, are governed by Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1344.10 and AR 600-20, §5-3. These provisions apply to active Guard and Reserve members on Title 32 status as well.

Active duty military personnel may register and vote and encourage others to do so. They may express their opinions on issues and candidates, including writing letters, editorials and opinion pieces and displaying bumper stickers on their privately owned vehicle. They may not do so in their capacity as a service member. Service members may sign legislative or ballot petitions in their personnel capacity.

Military personnel may attend meetings or rallies as spectators. They may not

attend: (a) in uniform, (b) during duty hours, (c) when their activities are a breach of law and order, or (d) when violence is likely.

Service members may contribute to political organizations and political parties. They may not contribute to individuals or individual campaign committees. Military personnel may not participate in fund raising activities in Federal facilities or on Federal property. They may not solicit contributions from others for any political purpose. They may not distribute campaign material or appear as a sponsor or officer of a political organization.

Military personnel may serve as an election official provided that they are not in uniform, the activity does not interfere with their military duties and they have prior approval from their commander.

Service members may not use their authority or influence to interfere with an election, campaign or solicitation to contribute. They may not participate in a political campaign or convention. Military personnel may not publish political articles that solicit votes for or against a candidate or party. They may not speak before partisan political gatherings or participate in partisan political advertisements.

Military personnel, generally, may not campaign for or hold elective office in either the federal, state or local government. Service members cannot make contemptuous statements about the President, Vice President, the Congress or its members, the Secretary of Defense or

Transportation, or the Governor or legislature of any state or territory.

### Federal Employees

The political activities of Federal employees, including dual status military technicians, are covered by the Hatch Act, 5 USC §§ 7321-7325, and 5 CFR Part 733. For purposes of the Hatch Act federal employees include those principally employed by programs financed in whole or part by the Federal government or any Federal agency.

Federal employees may register, vote and encourage others to do so. They may stand as candidates for office in a nonpartisan election. Federal employees may express their political opinions on candidates and issues outside of the work place.

They may contribute to political organizations and attend political fundraisers, rallies and conventions. Federal employees may be active members of political organizations and sign legislative or ballot petitions. They may hold office in political organizations and serve as convention delegates.

Federal employees may campaign for or against candidates, referendums, amendments, initiatives and ordinances. They may make speeches and distribute campaign material in support of their position.

The Hatch Act permits federal employees to solicit, accept and receive political contributions only from those who are a member of the same union or employee organization and not a subordinate of the

recipient. Federal employees may not use their position to interfere with an election or the participation of anyone with business before their agency.

Federal employees may not engage in political activity while on duty, on government property or in a government facility or vehicle or while wearing their work uniform.

### M-Day

M-Day personnel, both officer and enlisted, in an inactive status, (i.e. not on state or federal orders), are not covered by the forgoing provisions, save one.

Under no circumstances will military personnel attend or participate in any partisan political activity while in uniform. While you may not be on orders at the time, by attending such an event in uniform your participation could lead to the attribution of your personal beliefs to the military service and the government. Such activity could undermine the nonpartisan support of the services and undermine the principal of civilian control of the military services. This principal is fundamental to the protection of the democracy which all service members have sworn to uphold. Safeguarding this principal is the obligation of all service members.

For more information on this issue go to [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives)



WAYNE E. TRAVERS JR.  
CTESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN  
[WAYNE.E.TRAVERS@US.ARMY.MIL](mailto:WAYNE.E.TRAVERS@US.ARMY.MIL)

## Bosslifts give employers taste of military life

Most of us are familiar with "Take Your Child to Work Day" and the Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has its own version, known as the "Bosslift."

With ESGR's mission "to gain and maintain active support from all public and private sector employees for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve Components as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service," a Bosslift is one of many ESGR programs and services aimed at educating employers and community leaders about the crucial role that the National Guard and Reserve plays in our national defense.

CTESGR sponsors Bosslifts for visits to in-state and regional military facilities. These events are an important tool in educating employers, but there are other ways for employers to learn more about the mission of the Guard and Reserve.

In addition to attending a Bosslift, employers can learn more about the role of the National Guard and Reserve

by attending open houses and public functions at local military units, talking about the National Guard and Reserve with military and civilian leaders in their communities and asking their employees what they do and how they fit into the "big picture" of national defense.

For more information on CTESGR programs, including Bosslifts, visit [www.ctesgr.org](http://www.ctesgr.org) or call 860.721.5901.



(Above) Members of the Young Presidents Organization participated in a September CTESGR Bosslift, where they visited Coast Guard facilities in New London, attended a briefing by Coast Guard officials on world events and Coast Guard responsibilities and observed an interdiction exercise involving U.S.C.G. vessels. (Photo courtesy CTESGR)

(Left) CTARNG Col. (Ret.) Anthony Vallombroso, program support specialist for the Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, looks out from the bridge of U.S. Coast Guard vessel at a recent CTESGR Bosslift. (Photo courtesy CTESGR)



## Inside OCS

### OCS: A world of transformation, growth

OC JESSE J. STANLEY  
OCS CLASS 52

In the staggering heat and humidity or the bitter cold of the winter, the Officer Candidates take on the challenges before them. Occasionally a passerby can see the OCs going about whatever task is currently before them with a drive fueled by determination and perhaps a dash of desire to not draw the attention of one of the many TAC (Train Assist Counsel) officers and NCOs identified by their black hats.

Others on post pass by watching the OCs being run through the paces, sweating, grunting and yelling, sometimes in a favored rest position of the front leaning variety. From as early as 5 a.m. to midnight the sights and sounds of training seem to be ever present. Some passersby shake their head at the sight, others often give it a wide berth as if to avoid being swept up into the chaos. Sometimes an older officer pauses to reminisce about his or her time here earning the right to stand before a group of Soldiers as a commissioned officer. It is a right earned with blood, sweat and tears.

In witnessing the process of this transformation from enlisted Soldier to officer some marvel at why someone would put themselves through it. Others gain a little more respect for those who have. It is the rest that see this training, talk to the candidates who are going through it and see something of it within themselves that should seek out the information to join. In doing so they will challenge themselves on a new level and potentially become a leader in the best military in the world.

It was part witnessing this world of OCS and the rest gentle nudging from officers I met and worked with that drove me to my decision to join this training. Through it I have learned more about the military, the National Guard and even myself. There is a special transformation that seems to take place in Soldiers in the program. Having watched friends go through it I have noticed a marked change through the process.

I often wonder when and if that change would happen to me. I have often looked on at those particularly impressive officers

and wondered where the charisma and presence came from. What is it that emanated from them that gave them this aura of leadership? Why would people jump at the chance to serve under them?

Through this training I have come to realize more that they had those things within themselves to begin with. OCS merely tapped that potential and magnified it. The instructors of the OCS program do their best to exemplify officers and NCOs that not only meet the standards but excel them. They inspire the candidates to do their best and mold them into leaders that they not only would be proud to have as their peers but some would potentially follow themselves.



## Recently Retired?

**Consider coming back to the Connecticut National Guard.**

**Call your former unit for more information.**



## Why Diversity

### Hispanic Heritage Celebration at 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing

CAPT. AMY FLYNN  
SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM MANAGER

The Connecticut National Guard, in conjunction with the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), hosted an event in celebration of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month on Thursday, Oct. 5. The event took place at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing in East Granby, Connecticut.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Celebration featured a presentation on the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers." The presentation will be conducted by Ms. Noemi Figueroa-Soulet, co-producer, director and writer of "The Puerto Rican Soldier," a documentary film currently in production, highlighting the unique history of the all-Puerto Rican 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the only Hispanic-segregated unit in Army history.

Ms. Figueroa-Soulet's presentation featured a preview of a portion of the documentary, an account of the project, and a photo display. The documentary film chronicles the untold story of the all-Puerto Rican 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, using rare archival footage and interviews to explore the exploits, triumphs, and painful tribulations of these now-forgotten

veterans. In addition, the presentation is scheduled to include a brief question and answer session with two veterans of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Following the presentation on the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the event featured a cultural performance by Mr. Valeriano Ramos and Ms. Sandra Hernandez.

Ramos is a talented composer and guitar master who is widely recognized as one of the best Flamenco guitarists in the United States.

His music and personal interviews have been featured on numerous television and radio shows. Ramos has released many widely successful albums and has toured internationally.

This year's celebration culminated with a solo Flamenco guitar performance, accompanied by renowned Flamenco dancer, Sandra Hernandez.

For more information on the presenter or performers, please visit [www.prsoldier.com](http://www.prsoldier.com) or [www.valramos.flamenco.com](http://www.valramos.flamenco.com).

If you would like to find out how you can become involved with the planning of future Special Emphasis Programs or for more information concerning the celebration, please contact Special Emphasis Program Manager, Capt. Amy Flynn at (860) 878-6718 or email at [amy.flynn@us.army.mil](mailto:amy.flynn@us.army.mil).

**Applications now being accepted for  
Embedded Training Team (ETT)  
Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan**

**Mobilization  
Spring 2007**

**Officers\*: COL/LTC/MAJ/CPT  
NCOs\*: CSM/MSG/SFC/SSG**

**\* All positions are Male only**

**Interested ?**

For additional information: Lt. Col. Karvelis (860) 524-4838 or  
Maj/L. Rolstone x 4934

Application: Volunteer memorandum through your Chain of Command.  
(All Volunteers / Soldiers will be involuntarily mobilized)



# Health & Fitness



## Medical Notes

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LT. COL EILEEN GILLAN, M.D.  
CTARNG  
FROM MPIP PATIENT GUIDE &  
WWW.DERNETWORK.ORG

The summer is unfortunately coming to an end.

Did you or your family member have a little too much “fun in the sun”?

Do you have moles that you are concerned about but can’t get a dermatology appointment until next summer?

Although prevention of sun exposure is the most important factor in the prevention of skin cancer, skin self examination plays a vital role in early detection of skin related cancers. The following is a summary of the salient points in the evaluation of moles.

• **Moles or nevi** (singular=nevus) are growths of skin cells or melanocytes that grow in a cluster. We normally have

melanocytes in our skin to provide our skin coloring or pigment. Moles are common with most individuals having 1-3 dozen moles. Moles can arise at any time and can also disappear with time. They can be flat or raised and are usually round or oval and normally smaller than a pencil eraser (see Pictures below).

• **Dysplastic Nevi** or atypical moles occur in 1 of 10 people and are more likely to develop into melanoma, a type of skin cancer. Evaluation is recommended when moles look unusual or grow or change in color, outline or other attributes (see ABCDs below)

• **Risk Factors for Melanoma** are also important but the majority of people who develop melanoma DO NOT have dysplastic nevi or other known risk factors as follows;

- Family history of melanoma

- Dysplastic nevi
- History of melanoma
- Immune dysfunction
- >50 moles
- History of UV radiation
- Severe, blistering sunburns
- Freckles
- Fair skin

• **Early Detection of Melanoma** with monthly Skin Self Examination

• After shower/bath check entire skin surface in a systemic fashion with full-length and hand-held mirrors (include groin, palm/soles, fingernails, between digits)

• A family member may be helpful for the back and scalp.

• Become familiar with your moles! Tracing size/shape in conjunction with

digital photos with dates can be useful for comparison when future question of change arises.

• If you notice any change such as in outline, shape, size, color or feel of existing mole or any new mole (particularly black) have your skin checked by a health care professional.

• Melanoma can run in families. If you have a family member with melanoma you should be seen by a health care professional.

• Because not all moles, including dysplastic nevi develop into melanoma, usually only moles that have the ABCD characteristics (see below) of melanoma may need to be removed.


Remember: an ounce of sunscreen prevention is worth a pound of cure!

## Pictures of Ordinary Moles and Dysplastic Nevi

### Ordinary Moles

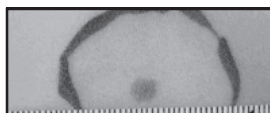
### Dysplastic Nevi

**Color**



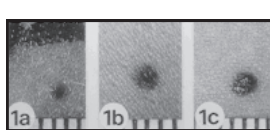
Evenly tan or brown; all typical moles on one person tend to look similar.

**Shape**



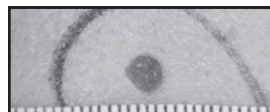
Round or oval, with a distinct edge that separates the mole from the rest of the skin.

**Surface**




Begin as flat, smooth spots on skin (1a); may become raised (1b) and form a smooth bump (1c).

**Size**




Usually less than 5 millimeters (about 1/4 inch) across (size of a pencil eraser).

**Number**



Between 10 and 40 typical moles may be present on an adult's body.

**Location**



Usually found above the waist on sun-exposed surfaces of the body. Scalp, breasts, and buttocks rarely have normal moles.

Mixture of tan, brown, and red/pink. A person's moles often look quite different from one another.

Have irregular, sometimes notched edges. May fade into the skin around it. The flat portion of the mole may be level with the skin.

May have a smooth, slightly scaly, or rough, irregular, “pebbly” appearance.

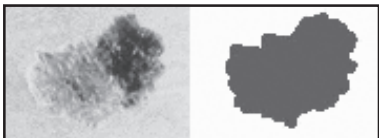
Often larger than 5 millimeters (about 1/4 inch) across and sometimes larger than 10 millimeters (about 1/2 inch).

May be present in large numbers (more than 100 on the same person). However, some people have only a few dysplastic nevi.

May occur anywhere on the body but most frequently on the back and areas exposed to the sun. May also appear below the waist and on the scalp, breasts, and buttocks.

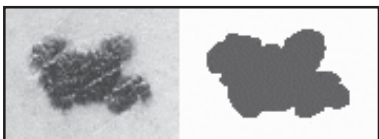
## The ABCDs of Melanoma

### Asymmetry



Meaning one half is different than another. Draw an imaginary line through the middle of the lesion, either up and down or side to side. Are the two sides the same size and shape (symmetric)? Melanomas are usually asymmetric.

### Border Irregularity



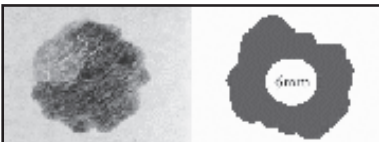
The edge, or border, of melanomas are usually ragged, notched, or blurred.

### Color



Benign moles can be any color, but a single mole will be only one color. Melanoma often has a variety of hues and colors within the same lesion

### Diameter



Melanomas continue to grow, while moles remain small. Is the lesion larger than a pencil eraser (6mm)?



## Combating Substance Abuse: *Fentanyl – a potent synthetic opioid*

CW4 TONY UVA  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFICER

A combination of street drugs taken together is having a lethal effect in a number of communities across the country. The root cause of these deaths appears to be the addition of fentanyl a powerful narcotic analgesic to heroin or cocaine being sold on the street.

Fentanyl, prescribe most often by physician to treat patients with severe or chronic pain, is 50-100 times more powerful than morphine. It is a powerful synthetic opiate analgesic similar to but more potent than morphine. It is typically used to treat patients with severe pain, or to manage pain after surgery. It is also sometimes used to treat people with chronic pain who are physically intolerant to opiates.

Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance, or synthetic opioid, that is both legally and clandestinely manufactured. Fentanyl represents a major hazard for law enforcement personnel and chemists and can be very dangerous or even fatal if improperly handled. In its prescription form, fentanyl is known as Actiq, Duragesic, and Sublimaze. Some street names for the drug include Apache, China girl, China white, dance fever, friend, goodfella, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, as well as Tango and Cash.

Like heroin, morphine, and other opioid

drugs, fentanyl works by binding to the body's opiate receptors, highly concentrated in areas of the brain that control pain and emotions. When opiate drugs bind to these receptors, they can drive up dopamine levels in the brain's reward areas, producing a state of euphoria and relaxation. Mixing fentanyl with street-sold heroin or cocaine markedly amplifies their potency and potential dangers.

Why would anyone risk death for the high of this powerful drug? For some, it is an unwitting mistake, as they often do not know the composition of what they buy on the street. Incredibly, users intentionally make this choice as part of a desperate search for an increasingly better high.

Fentanyl is abused for its intense euphoric effects. Fentanyl patches are abused by removing the liquid contents from the patches and then injecting or ingesting these contents.

Patches have also been frozen, cut into pieces and placed under the tongue or in the cheek cavity for drug absorption through the oral mucosa. Used patches are attractive to abusers as a large percentage of fentanyl remains in these patches even after a 3-day use. Fentanyl oral transmucosal lozenges and fentanyl injectables are also diverted and abused. The abuse of these pharmaceutical

preparations initially appeared in the mid 1970s and has increased in recent years. Fentanyl emergency department treatments increased from 22 in 1995 to 1506 in 2002.

Some of the immediate toxicity effects of fentanyl, depending on dosage amounts, include: coughing; sleepiness/sedation; nausea/vomiting; constricted pupils; euphoria; analgesia/pain relief; respiratory depression; and muscle rigidity. Advanced toxicity symptoms include cold, clammy skin, constricted pupils (pinpoints), as well as increased respiratory depression that may lead to cardiac arrest, coma, and death.

Fentanyl's superior potency makes it a good medication for pain and a good target for abuse. And while it may not be as familiar as other prescription drugs, it is causing a wave of overdoses and deaths. We therefore must be vigilant in educating ourselves and those around us on the dangers associated with all drug abuse. If you think someone is abusing drugs try to get them help. Also the Connecticut National Guard has a number of useful Web Sites. Log on to "<http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil>" for helpful information about alcohol and drug abuse treatment.

Remember drug abuse is incompatible with military service. If you feel that you or someone has a particular problem, contact your chain of command.



## History: Connecticut's Valley Forge

COL. ROBERT CODY

After the Battle of Monmouth, N.J., June 28, 1778, the British occupied New York City. As the year came to an end, the tactical situation was such that Gen. George Washington could avoid concentrating his forces in one place. He divided his infantry between Danbury, Conn., West Point, N.Y. and Middlebrook, N.J.

His precious cavalry was dispersed from Durham, Conn., to Winchester, Va. Washington made his headquarters at Middlebrook with the greatest portion of his troops. Most of the Regiments of the Connecticut "Line" were quartered in Peekskill, N.Y.

On Oct. 22, 1778, Washington ordered Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam to leave White Plains for winter quarters. IPutnam was a brigadier general in the Connecticut Militia when the hostilities began. He had a very colorful past and reportedly unhitched his horse and left his plow in the middle of his fields in Pomfret to join the fight at Lexington. The wood and iron plow is currently on display at the State Armory in Hartford. He rode the one hundred and twenty miles from his home to Lexington in just eighteen hours. Putnam commanded a regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill and is one of the officers credited with giving the order, "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes."

Putnam's division formed the right wing

of the American line from Danbury to the Hudson River. Just as the area had proven to be a strategic supply depot two years earlier, Putnam's presence in the region meant he could quickly respond to threats in the Hudson Valley and Long Island Sound.

At Redding, the Connecticut Brigades settled down between the northeastern part of Lonetown and Long Ridge, near the boundary with Bethel. The New Hampshire Brigade was approximately a mile and a half to the west, while the light infantry and cavalry were at the headwaters of the Saugatuck River in West Redding, about a mile north of the present day Redding Railroad station.

Putnam's winter encampment has often been called "Connecticut's Valley Forge." Although the conditions were not nearly as bleak as the year before in Pennsylvania, shortly after the patriots set up camp, a Northeaster blanketed the area with the worst November snowfall in recent memory.

Today the area is Connecticut's first state park, established in 1886 commemorating this historic campground. Aaron Treadwell of Redding, Oliver Jennings of Fairfield and Isaac N. Bartram of Sharon donated the original 102 acres. Later, more land was acquired, and the park now encompasses 232 acres. In 1888, the state erected a forty-two foot obelisk, Soldier's Monument, made from Redding limestone and Ridgefield

granite.

Putnam's strength was estimated around five thousand men. His camp included two hundred Free Blacks and some Indians who helped fight the British. As with any military campaign before and since, Redding's population swelled with some of the Soldiers' wives and assorted camp followers.

At first, the people of Redding welcomed the Army. They felt honored and proud to host the patriots. Within a few weeks the Soldiers began to plunder local farms. It got so bad that farmers had to keep their livestock in their basements at night. There is also the amusing account of a local farmer who sold rum to the Soldiers. He diluted the spirits to increase his profit until one time he added so much water that the liquor froze. Some angry Soldiers tied him up straddling a cannon and then fired it.

Visit the  
**Connecticut  
Guardian**

online at  
[www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil)



*Thank you,  
Families, for  
all that you  
do and all  
that you  
sacrifice.*

*We are  
indebted to  
you.*





# Retirees' Voice

## Watching the NDAA and honoring his hero

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

As this is being written, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is still in conference. One of the unresolved provisions being discussed is prescription drug benefits for reservists, and another provision is to protect service members from "pay day lenders."

Also being considered is the SBP/DIC offset for widows and the "paid-up" provision for those over seventy years old that have been paying for more than 30 years.

President Bush signed an executive order designed to promote more efficient sharing of medical data between government agencies. That means the Department of Defense, the Veteran's Administration, along with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Personnel Management must gather and share information about the quality and price, and better incentives for program beneficiaries, enrollees and providers.

They must establish programs designed to measure quality of care and they must use compatible computer systems and electronic health records to help keep track of a beneficiary's medical care and condition. These changes and procedures must be underway by January 1, 2007. It will help ensure a 'seamless transition' of

medical care when a soldier leaves DOD care and enters the VA system.

My wife Ginny and I just returned from Poland where we took a tour. One of the places we visited was the former concentration camp at Auschwitz. That was a highly emotional tour that many of these so called non-believers should see. Just seeing the tons of clothing and personal items preserved there is enough to make anyone cry.

One of the highlights of my visit was seeing, and being close enough to touch the tomb of my hero, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko (Father of the U. S. Army Engineer Corps) and a hero in Poland's fight for freedom, entombed with kings and dignitaries at Wawil Hill Royal Castle and Cathedral.

It seems that every year since its inception I have had the pleasure of toasting Gen. Kosciuszko at the Senior NCO Dining-In. Hope to see you all at this years (25<sup>th</sup>) Dining-In.



## 2nd Louie By Bob Rosenburgh



Connecticut Guardians of  
**Freedom Run & Walk**

Saturday, November 4, 2006  
8:30 a.m. Start

Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.  
www.ctngfi.org

Serving the needs of our Soldiers,  
Airmen and Families

Course map, schedule, full details at  
[www.hartfordmarathon.com](http://www.hartfordmarathon.com)

The Hartford Marathon Foundation proudly presents a special event to support our Connecticut National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families.

New downtown Hartford course, great volunteer support, and a spectacular finish inside the State Armory.

All proceeds benefit the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.

- Open to all runners and walkers of all ages
- Special Military Divisions
- Fun Run for Kids
- T-shirts to all participants
- Awards, Spectacular Pageantry, Refreshments

clip and mail

**CT GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM 5K ENTRY FORM**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Age on 11/04/06 \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION ENTERED:  
Open \_\_\_\_\_ Kids Run \_\_\_\_\_ Police & Fire \_\_\_\_\_

Military Division:  
Marine \_\_\_\_\_ Army \_\_\_\_\_ Air \_\_\_\_\_ Navy \_\_\_\_\_ Coast Guard \_\_\_\_\_

FEES

Entry Fee: Until 10/28/06 After 10/28/06

Adults \$20 \$25

Students \$15 \$15

Race Shirt Dri Release Upgrade \$16 Size \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Payment  
☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Waiver: I desire to enter and participate in the CT Guardians of Freedom (the "race") organized by the Hartford Marathon Foundation, Inc. I know that running and walking are potentially hazardous activities. I should not enter and run or walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the race. I hereby certify that I am in good health and have trained to run or walk the distance of the race which I am entering. I assume all risks associated with running or walking in this race including but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather, including high heat and/or humidity, traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of my accepting my entry into this race, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release Hartford Marathon Foundation, Inc., its officers, directors, agents, volunteers and employees, City of Hartford all sponsors, their representatives and successors, from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this race even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature (Parent's Signature if participant is under 18 years of age) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to HMF. Mail completed form and payment to: Hartford Marathon Foundation, Inc., 140 Hebron Ave., Suite 102, Glastonbury, CT 06033. All entry fees are non-refundable. Your cancelled check is proof of your entry.

**PVT. MURPHY'S LAW**

By SFC Mark Baker

HURRRRRMMMMNNNNNNNNN

WHO! WHAT THE?!

PLEASE DON'T BE ALARMED ...

....I'M YOU FROM THE FUTURE! THIS SUIT ALLOWS ME TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME!

THE SCIENCE FICTION WEAPONRY OF YOUR TIME IS A REALITY IN MINE!

RETRACTABLE ADAMANTIUM CLAWS?

OH YEAH!



# Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to [www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil) and click on employment opportunities.

## Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Aircraft Mechanic	AVCRAD	WG-11	10/9/2006
Aircraft Mechanic (Indefinite)	AVCRAD	WG-11	10/9/2006
Surface Maintenance Mechanic	CSMS	WG-10/08	10/11/2006
Surface Maintenance Repairer	CSMS	WG-08	10/12/2006
Flight Operations Specialist	AVCRAD	GS-08	10/12/2006
Supervisory Supply Technician	AASF	GS-08	10/17/2006
Aircraft Flight Instructor	AVCRAD	GS-12	10/17/2006

## Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Quality Assurance Specialist (Aircraft) (Indef)	103rd FW	GS-09	10/4/2006
Military Pay Technician	103rd FW	GS-06	10/9/2006
Readiness In Base Services Technician	103rd FW	GS-07	10/9/2006

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the [www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil) and click on employment opportunities.

## Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	Recruiting and Ret Det	SFC/E-7	Open AGR (Nationwide)
Maint Test Pilot	Co G (-), 126th Avn	W-1 thru W-4	Open AGR (Statewide)

## Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Military Pay Technician	103RD FW	E4 THRU E7	Open AGR
Readiness In Base Services Tech.	103RD FW	E4 THRU E7	On Board AGR

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Visit the

**Connecticut  
Guardian**

on-line at

[www.ct.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil)

# Coming Events

## October

### October 5

25th Annual Senior NCO Dining-In

### October 5

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

### October 9

Columbus Day

### October 11

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to all members

### October 21

Annual Retiree Seminar

The Theater at the Sub Base

## November

### November 2

Officer's Dining-In

### November 5

State Veterans' Day Parade

### November 7

Election Day

### November 8

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to all

### November 11

Veteran's Day

### November 23

Thanksgiving Day

## December

### December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

### December 13

NGACT Board Meeting - Open to All

### December 16

Hanukkah

### December 25

Christmas

### December 26

Kwanzaa

## In future issues

Senior NCO Dining In

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Deployed Units Report from the Front

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.



# IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS



**8:00 PM  
Saturday  
Nov. 11, 2006**

**WOOLSEY HALL  
YALE UNIVERSITY  
NEW HAVEN**



**The United States  
Army Field Band  
& Soldiers' Chorus**

*The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
Washington, DC*

***Free Tickets***

- 203-432-4113
- [Yale.edu/Yaleband](http://Yale.edu/Yaleband)

or visit

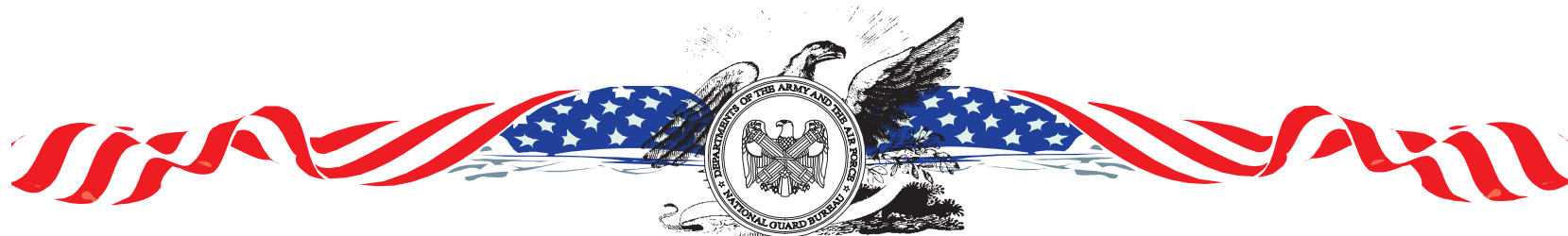
**The Sprague Hall Box Office  
(corner College & Wall Sts.)**



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# Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 7 NO. 10

HARTFORD, CT

OCTOBER 2006

## Families of the Year honored on Family Day

The Recipients of the 2006 Air National Guard Family of the year are Dave and Patricia Shannon. Pat and Dave have been volunteers of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing Family Program since 2003.

Both of the Shannons serve on the volunteer council. Together, they have logged more than 1100 hours of time assisting with Air and Army National Guard events, such as sendoffs, returns, and other Guard activities. This includes seeing our Airmen off at 2 a.m. and sitting with the families until they were prepared to leave for home.

Dave says that "military families need to know that there are people in the community who want to offer support, who care, and are willing to help them."

The Shannons have a strong military family. Two of their three sons have served with the Army National Guard. David Jr. is a captain in the Massachusetts ARNG. Michael served with the Connecticut AVCRAD before joining the U.S. Army, where he is a sergeant. He also served two

tours in Afghanistan. Both have been awarded the Purple Heart.

They have three other children, Mark, Elizabeth and Susan.

Dave Sr. has prior Navy experience.

Pat and Dave are kind, generous and truly care about the families and members of our Nation's military.

Many hours were spent at the home of a military family, while the husband and father were deployed. Their efforts to manage the volunteers of a community who were assisting the home improvements of this military family were noticed, appreciated and overwhelmingly successful in preparing the home for winter. As well as helping the family prepare for the birth of the newest family member.

Not enough can be said to acknowledge the contributions, sacrifices and love that the Shannons have offered to our State's Military.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> FW is honored to call them one of our own.



The Recipient of the 2006 Army National Guard Family of the Year award is presented to the Jones, Samson and Pelletier Family.

Cindy Jones, Wayne and Ramona Samson and Dave Pelletier became volunteers for the 143<sup>rd</sup> Area Support Group Family Readiness Group when wife, daughter and sister, Master Sgt. Christine Pelletier deployed to Iraq in September 2004. The Jones, Samsons and Pelletiers became very active participants in the FRG and worked tirelessly to plan family events and hold fundraising drives to ensure that other family members were given ample opportunities to socialize and network as deployment is often a difficult time for the many families and friends left behind.

Cindy, and since returned Christine, continue to show their support to other families who are experiencing deployment even though the ASG has been returned for more than a year. Cindy has since become a

lead volunteer in the Connecticut Child and Youth Program, volunteering her expertise and time once a month to work with our Guard youth.

Cindy and Christine have also just recently volunteered their time to participate in the North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration where they chaperoned five Connecticut youth who spent a week experiencing the life that Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago. Cindy also volunteers with the C Co 1/102<sup>nd</sup> Family Readiness Group, attending each meeting to offer her support to others.

This family's continued support to the Connecticut National Guard makes them the perfect recipient of the 2006 Army National Guard Family of the Year award. Their dedication and enthusiasm to the program and military families have not gone unnoticed.





CATHERINE GALASSO

## *We bowed our heads in prayer and He listened*

When two little girls bow their heads to pray, God listens. That day, when I learned that a friend was going in the hospital to have a tumor removed, our instant reaction was to call upon the Lord. We made a circle, my little girls and I. We held hands, and prayed... a prayer chain between them and me, with God in the center. For we believe, "Where there are two or three gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

There is a little bit of God in each of His children, young and old, that is why when two or three gather together, there is that much more of Him.

Therefore, we left the situation in God's mighty hands, as a profound peace filled me, and I was at rest in His perfect, sovereign will. And that young lady that we prayed for is now completely well.

Throughout our lives, there are countless times when prayers are answered and miracles occur. Extraordinary wonders are taking place every day, though, they are not always visible. In a split second, we know God is at work, and it is a treasured moment that we will always remember, and will be etched in our hearts evermore. "If we believe that He hears us, we know we have what we asked for." 1 John 5:15.

Converse with the Father simply and directly: God Himself draws near when we talk to Him. He is of great compassion and understanding and He brings comfort, hope and reassurance.

The practice of prayer is life altering. Studies have shown remarkable health benefits associated with prayer. Scientists say that prayer evokes relaxation, quiets the body, and promotes healing. It has also been concluded, that people who pray tend to become depressed less and when they do, they recover more quickly. There are physical changes in the body that take place when someone prays. Not saying the same words over and over, but real conversation between you and God. He delights to hear your thoughts and requests made with thanksgiving.

Then, let faith picture the situation you are praying for as being resolved, and hold on to the positive image of its answer. If God can say to a raging sea, "Peace, be still," and it obeys Him, He can certainly control and supply every need. If He can say, "Daughter, your faith has made you well," Mark 5:34, He can definitely forgive all your past mistakes and start you on a brand new life. A reader wrote via e-mail, "If God brings you to it, He will bring your through it."

So, we always start prayer with gratitude, and let our prayers be full of thanksgiving for God's generous heart. We praise Him, from whom all blessings flow and review the treasured blessings in our lives. We believe God will continue to work in unfathomable ways, which we sometimes do not fully understand, but we delight ourselves in His great wisdom.

As He maintains the entire universe, we remain steadfast in His love that works all things together for good to us. As our hearts overflow with joyful thankfulness, we cannot help but let it flow out from us to others. The love of God makes you want to give and give. If not material things, then we give out, as my little girls do, smiles, hugs and joy-filled laughter.

Inner beauty reveals itself in outward acts of compassion and kindness. And I know God is touched by our loving gestures, caring hearts and attitudes of gratitude that compel us to take time to do something for another. Accordingly, by praying for others we get inspired to do and be God's hands, mouth and feet.

In Jeremiah Chapter 31:13, I read, "I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow." Therefore, we will continue to pray... my little girls and I. Pray and do.

Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, Ct. 06105-3795 or e-mail her at [cgv@anewyouworldwide.com](mailto:cgv@anewyouworldwide.com).

Visit her website to see her new inspirational product line at [www.anewyouworldwide.com](http://www.anewyouworldwide.com)  
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## OKTOBERFEST 2006

Sponsored by the Families and Friends of the 643<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company currently stationed in Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



**Date:** Saturday, October 14, 2006

**Place:** Blackboard Café

541 Spring St # 345 Windsor Locks, CT 06096

**Time:** 7:30pm

DJ will start at 9:00pm

**\$10.00 for Food and Access**

For Tickets please contact Michelle McCarty:

Phone: 860-524-4866

[michelle.mccarty@us.army.mil](mailto:michelle.mccarty@us.army.mil)

All proceeds go to the Families and Friends of the 643<sup>rd</sup> MP Co Non-Federal Entity!

## HANDYPERSON HOTLINE



"CARRYING THE HOMEFRONT"

**SERGEANT MAJOR  
TOBY P. CORMIER**

Ph: 860-441-2984

Cell: 860-209-0770

[toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil](mailto:toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil)





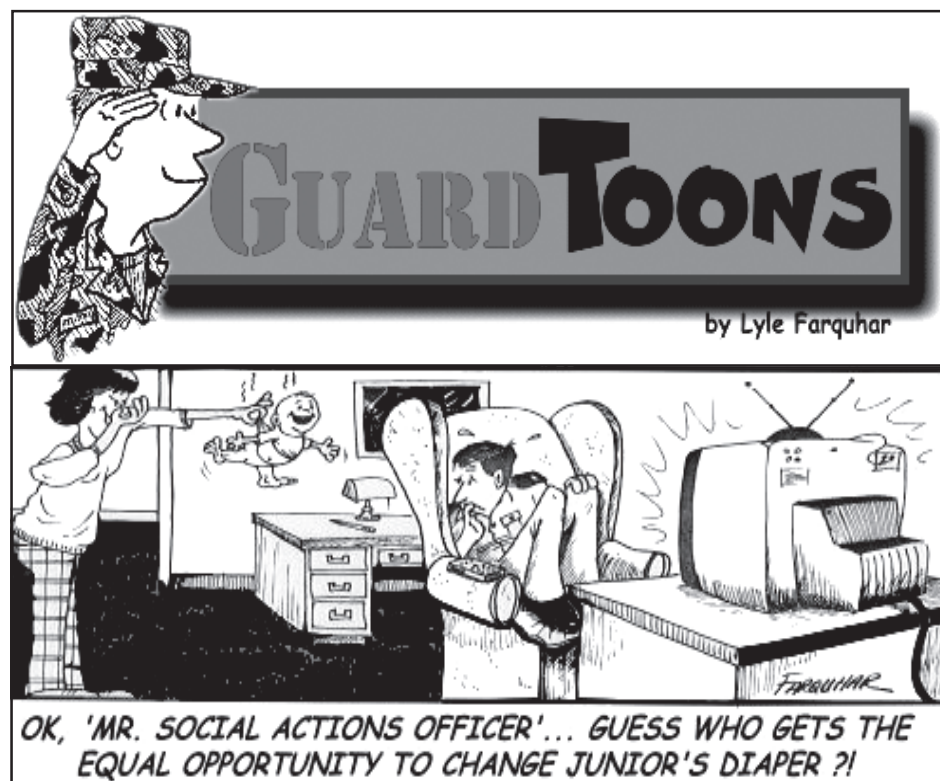
A black and white illustration of a person wearing a hooded cloak and a belt, carrying a large, wrapped package on their back. The package is rectangular with a prominent cross-shaped band. The person is walking towards the right.

If you are the family of a  
deployed servicemember, contact your  
Family Readiness Group or the Family Program Office  
to learn more about the holiday  
**Adopt-A-Family Program**

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-

**Exchange Hours:**  
MON., TUES., WED.,  
FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00  
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY:  
9:00 – 5:00  
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00  
Phone: (860) 694-3811

**Commissary Hours:**  
MONDAY: Closed  
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00  
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00





# Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

**Waterbury Armory**  
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702  
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291  
Mrs. Tamara (Jex) Killian

**Manchester Armory**  
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040  
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286  
Mr. Bert Saur & Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

**103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base**  
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026  
(860) 292-2730  
Mrs. Donna Rivera

**Norwich Armory**  
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360  
(860) 883-6934  
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

**103rd Air Control Squadron**  
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477  
(203) 795-2983  
Mr. Charlie and Mrs. Jane Solomon

**Windsor Locks**  
Bldg. P123, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
(860) 386-4045  
Mrs. Rita O'Donnell

**Hartford Armory**  
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795  
1-800-858-2677  
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty,  
Mrs. Melissa Tetro-Dow, Staff Sgt. Jessica McKenna-Boski,  
Mrs. Trudy Kaufman, Ms. Elizabeth Rivera and Mrs. Karen Somes

Volunteers are needed in each facility.

Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677. Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address:  
kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil

Please visit our Website at [www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family](http://www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family)

## HOW TO MAKE PAPER MACHE

There are many different ways to do paper mache. In most cases you start with a shape (plastic mold, balloon, ...), lots of newspaper, and the mixture.

### Recipes

- Recipe 1 - Mix equal parts of white glue and water.
- Recipe 2 - Mix equal parts of white flour and water. Add more water if it is too thick.

Recipe 1 is easy for small projects. Recipe 2 works and is much less expensive for large projects (like volcanoes or piñatas)

The next step is to tear the newspaper (or tissue paper, paper towel, kleenex, or even toilet paper) into strips. Put some strips into the mixture to soak. Then apply them to the shape. Keep adding layers until your shape is covered. Then let dry at least over night.

### Hints

- Use wax paper as a work surface. Most paper mache won't stick to it.
- Clean up spills fairly quickly. Once they are dry, they are much harder to clean.
- Don't soak all the strips at one time. About 4-6 is enough.
- Cover the mixture with plastic wrap if you need to work on the project over 2-3 days.

### Paper Mache Tree

To make the tree, you will need: sheets of newspaper, tape, tissue paper, glue, scissors, card board (about 2ft square), paper tube (from paper towel or wrapping paper) paint brushes, and paint (depending on your selection of tissue paper).

Making the tree will take some time over 2-3 days.

Newspapers come in variety of sizes. The size of your finished tree will depend on the size of the paper. This tree was made from a smaller tabloid-size newspaper and is just over 1 ft high.

- Place two sheets of paper on top of each other. Starting from the shorter end, roll the paper so that you end up with a tube that is 2 ft long and about 1 inch wide.

- Use a piece of tape to secure it in the middle.

- Use scissors to cut the tube in half starting from the top to about 1/3 of the way up. These two sections will be the branches. Wind some tape around each of the branches so that they keep a generally round shape.

- Make a total of 6 newspaper rolls following these directions.

- Glue or tape the paper tube to the center of the cardboard.

- Take the first paper roll and bend it about 1/3 of the way up. The lower section forms the root. Place the middle of the roll against the cardboard tube and tape in place. The branches should stick out at odd angles away from the tube.

- Repeat until all six rolls are in place around the tube.

- Tape the roots in place around the tree. You may want to bend some of the at odd angles. Be sure to shape the branches so that they stick out in all directions.

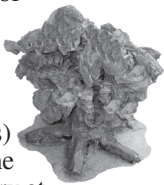
- Start tearing the tissue paper into odd shaped pieces about 1 inch sq. If you have brown tissue, go ahead and use it. Otherwise, just pick a light color and you can paint the trunk when it is finished.

- Mix some white glue with water, about half and half. Or you can use a paper mache mix (equal parts flour and water).

- Wet the paper in the glue mixture and then apply it to the tree. Wrap the pieces around each of the branches. Cover the roots, and add some texture to the ground

## KID'S CREATIVE CORNER

A monthly feature of fun and educational activities for the children of the Connecticut National Guard



- around the tree.
- Make a ring (about 2 cm or 1 inch wide) and add it to the trunk to make a knot.
- Let dry over night.

If you didn't use colored tissue paper, get the paints out and let the kids paint the tree. You might want a few shades of brown for the tree and variety of greens or browns for the ground.

When everything is dry, squish sheets of green tissue paper into loose balls. Glue these 'balls' around the tree as leaves.

### Warning

If you leave the tree in direct sunlight, the tissue paper will fade over time. However, it is easy to remove the faded sheets and make a new set of leaves. You could even change it with the seasons.